

The University of Chicago

THE SPELLING
SYSTEM OF THE GLASGOW MS OF
THE CANTERBURY TALES

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF
THE DIVISION OF THE HUMANITIES IN CANDIDACY
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

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EVA OLIVIA GOLSON

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INTRODUCTION

In several ways MS Glasgow Hunterian U. 1. 1 offers exceptional opportunities to the student of English spelling in the fifteenth century. Most important is the fact that the exemplar used in copying a considerable portion of the MS is known and is extant. Moreover, in a colophon, the two scribes, father and son, who wrote the MS gave their names and the place and the date of writing. An additional piece of good fortune is that the father was a man of sufficient local consequence to appear in various records and in the Paston correspondence, so that a good deal of information about him is available. It would be superfluous to point out to any student of medieval literature either the rarity or the usefulness of such a wealth of detailed information about the writing of a medieval MS.

MS Glasgow Hunterian U. 1. 1 (hereafter referred to as MS G1) has been so fully described¹ that there is no occasion for repeating any of the facts except those which furnish a necessary background for the problems to be treated. They are as follows. The scribes of MS G1 copied from MS Cambridge University Mm. 2. 5 (hereafter referred to as MS Mm)² the portion of the MS beginning with A 353 (the first three leaves are missing) and ending with D 153, and also the two tales at the end (which had been overlooked as a result of the change in exemplars).³ The colophon

¹A complete description is given by Professors J. M. Manly and Edith Rickert in The Text of the Canterbury Tales (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1940), I, 183-88. (For all succeeding references to this work the abbreviated title Text is used.) For a list of earlier descriptions, together with some additional information, see Virginia T. Everett, "A Study of Scribal Editing in Twelve MSS of the Canterbury Tales" (Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, Department of English, University of Chicago, 1940), pp. 1-3.

²This sigil and all others used in this dissertation are taken from the Text.

³The proofs given in the Text (I, 185) certainly need no support; but it may not be presumptuous to testify that the more

informs us that Geoffrey Spirleng, aged fifty, a citizen and official of Norwich, and his son Thomas, aged sixteen, completed the MS in 1476/7. Of the numerous facts about Geoffrey Spirleng in records and in the Paston correspondence¹ the following are pertinent here: he was associated with Sir John Paston I in attending to business affairs for Sir John Fastolf;² he was on business-like but friendly terms with the younger Pastons,³ well educated people who had many contacts with London; there is a record of his having gone to London once on town business; and he was a professional scrivener.

The significance of these facts about the MS and the older scribe is obvious. Since the exemplar of a considerable portion is known and is extant, the two MSS can be compared and the changes which were made by the Spirlengs noted and assembled. Since so considerable a portion was copied from MS Mm, there is a sufficient quantity of evidence to make generalizations possible. Moreover, we can be sure that such generalizations as may emerge from the comparison are true of the spelling of an official of Norwich, a professional writer of documents, who, at the time of the copying of the MS, had lived long in the city and had long been associated with important people of the region who had frequent contacts with London.

The statement that the generalizations are true of a Norwich citizen requires justification. According to the colophon, the MS was written in part by Thomas, the son of Geoffrey Spirleng, and most of the statements made about Geoffrey cannot be true of Thomas. There is, however, satisfactory evidence that the son

experience I had with the two MSS, the more deeply convinced I became that copying was involved rather than mere derivation from a common ancestor.

¹A detailed account is to be found in Text I, 188-89. See Virginia T. Everett, "Scribal Editing," pp. 7-8, for additional information. Unless otherwise indicated by footnotes, the facts I have listed are taken from one or the other of these sources.

²See James Gairdner (ed.), The Paston Letters (Edinburgh: John Grant, 1910), I, 335, 410, 415, 416, and 418.

³The following passage (*ibid.*, III, 43-44) from a letter written by John Paston to Sir John Paston II in 1470 illustrates their relationship: "Gefrey Sperlyng callyth oft upon me to understand how ye will delle with hym for his plase in Norwyche. I

and the father had almost, if not quite, identical systems of spelling;¹ and it is reasonable to suppose that the father taught the son rather than the reverse.

Naturally when one considers the facts just summarized, the first question which comes to mind is whether the changes made in copying the exemplar are of such a nature and of such consistency that anything which can properly be called a system results from the comparison. If a spelling system should emerge from the comparison, one would naturally wish to know whether a similar one is to be found among the other MSS of The Canterbury Tales; and whether a similar one is to be found in other works copied in the fifteenth century, especially in works written in Spirleng's own section of the country or in London works. An attempt to answer these questions is presented in the following pages.

pray you send me woord by John what answer I may geve hym; he deleth alwey ryght frendly with yow."

¹See pp. 4-5 infra.

CHAPTER I

THE SPELLING SYSTEM OF THE GLASGOW MS AS OBTAINED BY COMPARISON WITH THE SPELLINGS OF THE EXEMPLAR

The results of a comparison of the spellings of MS G1 with those of the exemplar are presented in this chapter. First, however, consideration must be given to the possibility that the two scribes, even though they were father and son, had some significant differences in their spelling habits and, consequently, that there were really two different spelling systems in MS G1. Whether this is true or not could be determined easily if it were always possible to distinguish the handwriting of the father from that of the son. Unfortunately, however, though there are passages about which all observers would probably agree, there are many about which it seems futile to hope for common agreement. In fact the only statement made in the Text as to specific passages of any length written by either is that the last two tales were written by the father.¹ But, although in many passages it is impossible to distinguish the two handwritings, there is still the possibility of some characteristic spellings or abbreviations which would mark certain passages as being definitely by one or the other. Even after careful study, however, none were detected. Finally it was decided to make use of the two tales written by the father in this way: when the results of the comparison of MS G1 with the exemplar were assembled, the figures for the changes in these two tales were collected separately and compared systematically with the figures for the changes made in the first 8,000 lines of the MS. Only three points of difference emerged, however; in the last two tales hise is substituted for his more often, in proportion, than in the first 8,000 lines of MS G1; them and ther are less often substituted for hem and her; and any is never substituted for eny. The second and third differences can be at least

¹It is obvious that the tales are in the same handwriting throughout; and by comparing them with official documents written by Geoffrey Spirleng, the editors of the Text (I, 184) were able to identify the handwriting as his.

partially accounted for on the ground that the tales were written in great haste¹ and that in hasty writing it is natural for a scribe to copy what is before him. The number of other changes made, however, is very striking; and it therefore seems reasonable to suppose that if Geoffrey Spirleng had been as much interested in these two changes as in, for instance, the substitution of weel for wele (adv.), he would have made them as often. It appears fairly safe, then, to assume that he had a decided preference for the spelling hise and that he was not so much interested in changing eny, her, and hem to any, ther, and them, respectively, as in making many other changes. These preferences, however, do not give us any real assistance in distinguishing passages written by one scribe or the other, since hise and his, any and eny, ther and her, and them and hem occur within a few lines of each other (often, in the case of hise and his, in the same line) throughout the 10,000 lines copied from MS Mm. Nor do they give us any reason to say that there are two systems. When we consider the great number of different changes made (see pp. 33-35 *infra*), three is a negligible number, even if positive statements could be made about them. Hence it appears justifiable to speak of the spelling system of MS G1, rather than the spelling systems

A second preliminary consideration is the nature of the spelling system of the exemplar, MS Mm. Its peculiarities suggested to the editors of the Text that it was written either by "a North Midland scribe who copied some forms from a Western exemplar or one from a North Midland area where some Western influence might operate."² Moreover, Mrs. Kerby-Miller, after comparing the dialect forms in MS Mm with those in the MSS most closely affiliated with it, found that it has several dialect forms also found in MS Ph³ but "has in addition a number of spellings not present in its close relatives."³ It would be superfluous to

¹Haste is betrayed by the shapes of the letters and the lack of mathematical straightness of the lines. It is easy to understand why the tales should have been copied hastily when one considers that the MS was thought to have been completed (the colophon was already written!) before the absence of the last two tales was discovered.

²Text, I, 367.

³Wilma A. Kerby-Miller, "Scribal Dialects in the c and d MSS of the Canterbury Tales" (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of English, University of Chicago, 1937), p. 45. See pp. 46-47 for illustrations of the statement.

give a list, at this point, of the dialectal forms and other odd spellings found in MS Mm, since they are enumerated during the presentation of the comparison between the systems of MSS G1 and Mm; but the fact that MS Mm is full of such peculiarities requires emphasis.

Before the detailed presentation of the results of the comparison of the two spelling systems, explanations should be given of two peculiarities of the ensuing analysis which might otherwise be surprising or puzzling. Usually the exemplar of a medieval MS is not known; hence it is impossible to distinguish the preferences of the scribe who copied it. Generally, therefore, in an analysis of the spellings (which is usually made from the point of view of pronunciation rather than of spelling) the entire range of vowels, diphthongs, consonants, and consonant combinations is gone through. But, since in this case the exemplar is known and is extant, the preferences of the Spirlengs can be determined by the changes made; consequently the changes alone have been assembled.¹ As a result many points usually discussed in dissertations on language have been omitted.

Omission of many points usually discussed is not, however, the only unusual feature of the analysis. As the other peculiarity is difficult to present clearly in general terms, I shall resort to illustration. During the account of the changes made by the scribes of MS G1 in copying MS Mm, I shall state that they substituted g for ch fifteen times in words like vengeance. At first glance the reader might assume that if they made the change so few times they had no serious objection to ch in such words. The truth is, however, that ch appears in such words only fifteen times in the exemplar; hence the scribes of MS G1 made the change every time they had the opportunity. Effort has been made in all such cases to give the necessary information about the spellings in the exemplar, but perhaps this warning may be helpful.

In the statistics which follow, the figures for the last two tales (those written hastily by Geoffrey Spirleng) and for the few leaves of Gamelyn have been omitted on the ground that they merely reinforce the generalizations made on the basis of

¹The fact that the two scribes copied without change certain spellings is significant, but not nearly so significant as changes made. Exact copying might be due not merely to approval but to an abstracted or fatigued state of mind in which they copied mechanically what was before them with a minimum of change.

the other lines copied from MS Mm and that the figures for this portion of the MS are so large that they need no reinforcement.¹ The statistics, then, are based on the following lines: A 353-1052, 1231-4422; B 1-354, 769-1880, 3079-3956; D 1-193; E 1245-2418; and F 9-708,² a total of more than 8,000 lines. Since the exemplar used for the portion of MS Gl not copied from MS Mm is unknown, there is no point in making any type of detailed analysis of that part; but even a cursory examination shows that the same spelling system is used in it as in the lines copied from MS Mm.

For convenience in handling, a typewritten copy was made of that portion of MS Gl which was copied from MS Mm, and the readings of the exemplar were entered between the lines. A word-by-word comparison was made, the changes were recorded under appropriate headings³ (occasionally the same word had to be entered under three different headings), and finally the changes were arranged in three groups: changes involving vowels or vowel combinations, changes involving consonants or consonant combinations, and miscellaneous changes.

The changes involving vowels or vowel combinations are presented first. These are divided into four groups: the substitution of a single vowel for a double vowel and vice versa; the substitution of a single vowel or a vowel combination for another single vowel or vowel combination in accented syllables;⁴ the substitution of a single vowel or vowel combination for another single vowel or vowel combination in unaccented syllables; and the addition or omission of unaccented vowels.

Before giving figures, however, I must acknowledge that, in spite of the care which has been exerted, I dare not hope to have attained perfect accuracy. But I am confident that such errors as have survived repeated checking cannot affect the gener-

¹If additional evidence is needed in any special case, however, it is supplied from the last two tales.

²For the numbers of missing leaves and for the order of the various tales, see Text, I, 183, 185.

³Though all changes were noted, none were used except those which involved the use of different letters or of a different arrangement of letters in spelling the same word.

⁴Syllables bearing a secondary accent have been included with the accented syllables.

alizations which have been made. The figures involved are so large that a few mistakes could not significantly affect the proportions involved. For instance I shall made the statement that in 292 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted a for e in accented syllables, and later I shall state that they substituted y for e in accented syllables in 190 cases. It would not matter much if the figures should be 298 and 188, respectively (though that fact has not been used as an excuse for lack of thoroughness in checking).

Also an explanation must be offered for the omission of line numbers from the presentation of the evidence. They were carefully noted and methodically arranged; but after experimentation I gave up my intention of including them, realizing that line numbers in such enormous masses would be troublesome and distracting to the reader.¹ For the same reason line and page numbers have been omitted from the presentation of the figures in the third chapter, which involves the use of works other than the Canterbury Tales.

CHANGES INVOLVING VOWELS OR VOWEL COMBINATIONS

The Substitution of Double Vowels for Single Vowels and of Single Vowels for Double Vowels

All cases of the substitution of a double vowel for a single vowel have been divided into four groups: the substitution of a double vowel for a single vowel plus final e (e. g., weel for wele); the substitution of a double final vowel for a single final vowel; the substitution of a double vowel for a single vowel, together with the retention of the final e of the spelling in the exemplar (e. g., woorde for worde); and miscellaneous substitutions of a double vowel for a single vowel. These same groups with the statements reversed have been used for the opposite substitution. The following are the totals for the eight groups.

¹Anyone wishing to verify any point by consulting the MSS or photostats can do so easily by using the concordance.

Double Vowel for Single
827 cases, total

A. Double vowel for single
vowel plus final e
483 cases

B. Double final vowel for
single final vowel
158 cases total, 129 of
them involving long
monosyllables

a. Final e
86 cases

b. Final o
69 cases

c. Final a
3 cases

C. Double vowel for single,
plus retention of final e
98 cases

D. Miscellaneous
88 cases

Single Vowel for Double
347 cases, total

A. Single vowel plus final e
for double vowel
12 cases

B. Single final vowel for
double final vowel
70 cases total, 42 of them
involving long mono-
syllables

a. Final e
39 cases

b. Final o
31 cases

c. Final a
0 cases

C. Single vowel for double,
plus retention of final e
181 cases

D. Miscellaneous
84 cases

On the basis of the figures given above the three following statements can be made. (1) The scribes of MS G1 substituted a double vowel for a single vowel plus final e (presumably as a sign of length) more than forty times as often as they made the opposite substitution. (2) They appear to have preferred to write historically long vowels in monosyllables with a double vowel rather than a single vowel, for they used the former method three times as often as the latter. When writing disyllabic or polysyllabic words, however, they used the single vowel nearly as often as the final double vowel. (3) They wrote the single vowel for the double in words for which they retained the final e of the exemplar nearly twice as often as they made the opposite substitution. This appears to indicate that although they used both the double vowel and final e for the same word in many cases, they preferred a single vowel plus final e. Compare, however, with the figures for the use of the double vowel unaccompanied by final e.

The list given below is of words which occurred in any of the eight groups sufficiently often to attract attention. In every case the spelling given in parentheses is the spelling of

the exemplar, while the first spelling is that of MS G1. The figure preceding each word indicates the number of times the substitution was made. The list is divided into two parts: words in which the substitution involves a final vowel and words which illustrate other types of substitution.

Double Vowel for Single

Single Vowel for Double

Substitutions Involving a Final Vowel

6 Canacee (canace)	1 Canace (canacee)
1 citee (cite)	10 cite (citee)
6 degree (degre _e)	2 degree (degree)
8 goo (go)	1 go (goo)
3 loo (lo)	7 lo (loo)
10 see (se)	5 se (see)
9 soo (so)	6 so (soo)
7 thoo (tho)	0 tho (thoo)
12 three (thre _e)	0 thre (three)
15 tree (tre _e)	1 tre (tree)
14 twoo (two)	4 two (twoo)
11 woo (wo)	0 wo (woo)

Other Types of Substitution

12 been (bene) ¹	1 ben (beene)
3 been (ben)	
1 beene (bene)	
1 beere (bere)	8 bere (beere _e , beere)
15 blood (blode)	1 blode (blood)
1 bloode (blode)	
7 breest (breste)	No cases
1 breeste (breste)	
2 breestes, breestys (brestis)	
7 caas (case) ²	3 cas (caas, caase)

¹In 14 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted ben for bene.

²In 13 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted caas for caase.

Double Vowel for Single	Single Vowel for Double
7 deel (dele)	1 dele (deele)
No cases	19 deth (deeth)
9 doon (done) ¹	No cases
2 doon (don)	
7 feet (fete)	1 fete (feete)
1 feete (fete)	
5 good (gode) ²	14 gode (goode)
	2 godely (goodly)
6 leest (leste)	No cases
1 leeste (leste)	
15 moost (moste)	No cases
1 mooste (moste)	
8 ooste (oste)	4 oste (ooste)
9 preest (preste) ³	No cases
7 reed (rede)	4 rede (reede)
6 reede (rede)	
1 reed (red)	
9 seen (sene)	3 sene (seene)
1 seene (sene)	
6 sooth (sothe)	1 sothely (soothely)
3 sooth (soth)	
2 stood (stode)	9 stode (stoode)
2 stoode (stode)	
179 weel (wele) adv.	No cases
1 weele (wele)	
17 weel (wel)	
1 weel (welle)	
3 weel (well)	
38 woord (worde)	No cases
11 worde (worde)	
19 woordes (wordes)	

¹In 6 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted done for don.

²In 8 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted good for gode.

³In the Canon's Yeoman's Tale (one of the two copied by the father at the end of the MS and not included in these statistics) preest is written for preste 35 times. These cases are included in the total given in the list at the end of the chapter.

Double Vowel for Single

25 yeer (gere)¹
 2 ysere (gerg)
 5 year (yer)
 3 yeeres, yeeris
 (geres, geris)

Single Vowel for Double

1 yerye (geeres)

Obviously in some cases the two sets of figures cancel each other. But figures in the first part of the list appear to indicate a preference for the spellings cite, three, tree, twoo, and woo. Figures in the second part of the list appear to indicate a preference for the spellings blood, cass, deth, moost, preest, and sooth. A very strong preference for woord and yeer is obvious. Most striking of all, however, is the fact that in 199 cases the scribes of MS G1 wrote weel instead of wale, wel, or well (adv.). Two of these spellings, deth and cite, may indicate a shortening of the vowel.

The Substitution of Single Vowels or Vowel
 Combinations for Other Single Vowels or
 Vowel Combinations in Accented Syllables

Substitutions involving single vowels or vowel combinations in accented syllables are divided into twenty-one groups which will be presented in the following order: a for e and vice versa,² a for o, a for u, a for ay, e for i, e for o, e for ei or ey, i for ie, a for y or i, e or ee for ai, u for i or y, u for o, u for uy or ui, y for e, y for i, ay for a, ea for e or ee, ey or ei for y or i, ie for e or ee, ui for o, ui or uy for i or y after g.

The Substitution of a for e and Vice Versa.--In 202 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted a for e in accented syllables; and in 178 cases they made the opposite substitution.³ These substitutions may be divided into three groups: (1) ay or ai

¹In 9 cases the scribes of MS G1 wrote yeer for geere.

²In this list the expression "and vice versa" is not repeated after each of the other 20 groups but is to be supplied by the reader.

³There is almost exactly the same proportion (though the numbers are much smaller) for this substitution in unaccented syllables. See p. 20 infra.

for ey or ei; (2) ar for er; and (3) all other types.

1. The scribes of MS G1 wrote ay or ai for ey or ei 63 times; and they made the opposite substitution 155 times. Words which occur noticeably often in the former group are as follows: pray, prave, prayed,¹ 10 cases; and say, 14 cases. The two words which often exhibit the opposite substitution are ageyn,² 13 cases, and geid, 55 cases.

2. The scribes of MS G1 wrote ar for er 16 times; and er for ar 39 times. They substituted herd(e) for hard(e) 26 times; but no other word occurs often in either list.

3. They wrote a for e when not followed by i, y, or r 213 times; and they made the opposite substitution 69 times. Comparatively few words are involved in this rather large number of cases. Any is written for eny 52 times;³ massage, massenger (and variations of the unaccented syllables) for message, etc., 14 times; fanne, thanne for yen, then, yenne,⁴ 32 times; whanne for when, 33 times; and whan for when, 73 times. Though all these spellings occur sufficiently often to indicate a decided preference, the scribes' insistence on the a in whan or whanne is very striking indeed. The only word which often exhibits the opposite substitution is lete for lat (31 cases).

The Substitution of a for o and Vice Versa.--(1) In 126 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted a for o before a nasal. Ninety-five cases of the former substitution are of many for mony. Many seems to be the only word which concerned them very much. They almost invariably copied the spelling of the exemplar when writing hand or land, and that spelling is almost invariably with o. But they copied mony only once or twice. (2) They regularly substituted nat for not. It appeared unnecessary to record all the cases; but the substitution was made 91 times between A353

¹In all succeeding lists of words, inflectional forms and compounds are not given unless they have some intrinsic interest; it is to be assumed that a figure given for any word may include inflectional forms and compounds.

²In 24 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted e for ey or ay in this word.

³The prevalent spelling in MS Mm is eny; the scribes of MS G1 copied it very often indeed.

⁴The thorn in MS Mm looks like a y; and y has therefore been used in the transcription.

and A3546, and 100 times between B351 and D193. In only 14 miscellaneous cases in addition to those involving nat did they substitute a for o; and they made the opposite substitution only twice.

The Substitution of a for u.--The substitution of a for u in accented syllables involves only the word shall. In 12 cases the scribes of MS G1 wrote shal or shall for schul, schull, schullen, etc. In both MSS this word is regularly spelled with a.

The Substitution of a for ay or ai and Vice Versa.--In 10 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted a for ai or ay in accented syllables,¹ and in 5 cases they made the opposite substitution.

The Substitution of e for i and Vice Versa.--In 359 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted e for i in accented syllables; and in 114 cases they made the opposite substitution. There are 7 words in which their preference of e to i is noticeable: dede, 29 cases; gef, geve, yef, etc., 42 cases (in addition there are 8 cases of yefte, geft, and plurals); her or here (meaning "their"), 39 cases; pete, petous, petously, 22 cases; preuy, preuily, preuyte, 9 cases; these and fese, 51 cases; and yet, 67 cases.

There are only two words in which they exhibited a decided preference of i to e: sithe, sith, sithen, sithens, 39 cases; and hir (meaning "her"), 47 cases.

It is interesting to note that they were careful to distinguish between hir meaning "her" and her meaning "their."

The Substitution of e for o and Vice Versa.--The following figures are of doubtful significance; one of the first things anybody learns about Middle English handwriting is that o and e when hastily written are often indistinguishable. There are a few cases, however, in which one can feel reasonably sure of the intentions of the scribes of the two MSS. In 57 cases the scribes of MS G1 appear to have substituted e for o in accented syllables; and in 24 cases they appear to have made the opposite substitution. The only words which should be noted are er for or, 13 cases, and she for cho, 22 cases.

The Substitution of e for ey or ei and Vice Versa.--In 48

¹There are 2 cases of the substitution of a for ai or ay in unaccented syllables, and 6 cases of the opposite substitution.

cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted e for ei or ey in accented syllables;¹ and in 12 cases they made the opposite substitution.² In 29 cases aven or ayenat were written for a3ein, a3eyne, a3einat, a3eynste; and in 10 cases regne was written for reigne or reygne.

The Substitution of i or y for ie or ye and Vice Versa.--In 44 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted i or y for ie or ye, and in 24 cases they made the opposite substitution. They wrote high for hiegh 32 times; and fier for fire 14 times.

The Substitution of o for y or i and Vice Versa.--In 143 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted o for y or i in accented syllables; and in only 2 cases they made the opposite substitution. They wrote wole for will or wil 113 times; moche for myche, miche, mychell, 16 times;³ and wost or woste for wiste, wyste, 9 times.

The Substitution of o or oo for oy or oi and Vice Versa.--In 84 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted -oth or -ooth for -oith or -oyth in the present indicative, third person singular, of two verbs. They wrote dooth for doith 23 times; doth for doith or doyth 10 times; mysdooth for mysdoith once; and goth for goith or goyth 50 times. In addition, they wrote gost, goost, or gooste (present indicative, second person singular) for goiste, govate 4 times. It is possible, in view of later developments, that the -ith and -ist in the exemplar may indicate the pronunciation of a second syllable, though this is not the standard view.⁴

There are only 8 other cases of the substitution of o or oo for oy or oi in accented syllables; they involve the following words: goste (noun), nose, rost, and sooth.

The Substitution of u for i or y and Vice Versa.--In 40 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted u for i or y in accented syllables, but in no case did they make the opposite substitution. Only three words besides lust, verb and noun, are involved. In

¹There are 11 cases of this substitution in unaccented syllables, 7 of them involving the word counsel and its compounds.

²There are 16 cases of this substitution in unaccented syllables, 10 cases involving the word certainly.

³They very seldom, if ever, copied the i or y spelling.

⁴See Wilma A. Kerby-Miller, "Scribal Dialects in the c and d MSS of the Canterbury Tales," p. 46, for a discussion of this point.

35 cases luste, lust, lusteth (verbs) are substituted for liste, list, listeth, lyste.

The Substitution of u for o and Vice Versa.--In 97 cases the scribes of MS Gl substituted u for o in accented syllables; and in 57 cases they made the opposite substitution. As 19 of the substitutions of o for u occurred before n, m, or v, they may have been used to prevent misreading. The following words occurred noticeably often: but for bot, 18 times; must for most or (sometimes) mote, 30 times; and torne for turne, 15 times.¹

The Substitution of u for ui or uy and Vice Versa.--In 8 cases the scribes of MS Gl substituted u for ui or uy in accented syllables, and in 1 case they made the opposite substitution. In 7 cases² they wrote frute for fruyte or fruyt.

The Substitution of y for e and Vice Versa.--In 190 cases the scribes of MS Gl substituted y for e in accented syllables, and in 42 cases they made the opposite substitution. The preposition by furnishes 120 cases of the substitution of y for e.³ Also myller was substituted for meller(e) 10 times; and thynk for thenk, 10 times. The only word which often exhibits the opposite substitution is petous (9 cases). This adds to the evidence presented in connection with the substitution of e for i in accented syllables (see p. 14 supra) that these scribes preferred to spell this word with an e.

The Substitution of y for i and Vice Versa.--In 1654 cases the scribes of MS Gl substituted y for i in accented syllables;⁴ and in 251 cases they substituted i for y. In the great

¹In MS Mm the prevailing spelling of but is with u and that spelling is copied in MS Gl. But must and turn occur comparatively seldom and the scribes of MS Gl made the substitution in question nearly every time the words occur.

²This word occurs only 7 times in this portion of the MS. (Missing leaves and a scribal alteration account for the other three cases.)

³There is probably a close connection between this substitution and that of y for e in the unaccented first syllables of various words, e.g., before (see pp. 21-22 infra). Since by is not accented in the sentence, there are reasons for including it with unaccented syllables; but it seemed prudent to make the hard-and-fast rule of including separate words with accented syllables.

⁴There is also a considerable amount of this substitution in unaccented syllables. (See p. 22 infra.)

majority of the words involved the y is neither preceded nor followed by m, n, u, or v; hence it could not have been used to prevent misreading. Moreover, since only a negligible proportion of the words involved were originally spelled with y, the substitution has no historical justification. The following words exhibit the substitution of y for i between 10 and 20 times: abyde, aryse, aspve, blysse, bryght, crve, deuyse, fayre, fyre, lyke, lyste, lyve, myght, pave, pryson, pryuely and pruete, style, ynne, and yre. A smaller number exhibit the substitution between 21 and 36 times: lyfe, ryde, syde, thyne, tyl(i), and yf. Thy exhibits it 113 times; and they, 229 times. For wife and wise both the substitution of y for i and of i for y are made so often that a preference for neither can be assumed.

The only two words which exhibit the substitution of i for y noticeably often are Diane, 7 cases,¹ and wight, 28 cases.

The Substitution of au for a before a Nasal and Vice Versa.--In 83 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted aun for an, and in 41 cases they made the opposite substitution. No word occurs often enough in either list to establish a decided preference. Custaunce was written for Custance 15 times, but the opposite substitution was made 5 times. Marchaunt was written for marchant 13 times. In dan and franke, a was substituted for au 7 and 8 times respectively. Since these are not words which occur often, the small number of substitutions may be significant.

The Substitution of ea for e or ee and Vice Versa.--In 1937 when Grosse wrote his valuable dissertation Die neuzeitliche ea-Schreibung he had only Wild's Die sprachlichen Eigentümlichkeiten der wichtigsten Chaucer MSS und die Sprache Chaucers to rely on for information as to the ea spellings in the Chaucer MSS. The 26 cases of this substitution in MS G1 appear as a comparatively moderate number on the basis of the information in Wild. Examination of the sections on "Dialect and Spelling," however, in the first volume of the Text or study of the MSS reveals that some Chaucer MSS have a far greater number. Grosse's general

¹There are only 11 cases of Diane in the portion of the MS copied from MS Mm. In 7 cases the scribes substituted i for y; in 3 cases they copied the i from the exemplar; and in 1 case they copied the y from the exemplar. This word is important only because it may be connected with the tendency toward Latinized spellings (see p. 31 infra).

statement about ea in the fifteenth century, that it was found for the most part in "amtliche Urkunden oder Schriftstücke" and but sparingly or not at all in the MSS of literary works¹ applies very well to MS G1; its total compares very favorably with those given by Grosse for literary works; but it is very small in comparison with his figures for Lekebusch's London documents, for example, or for the Coventry Leet Book. But some of the Chaucer MSS have many more cases than MS G1 (and, of course, some have none or few).²

A complete list of the words which exhibit the substitution of ea for e or ee is as follows: beane, earles, ease, easily, easement, easy, frealte, meane, please, reame, reane, reason, and seal.

The Substitution of ei or ey for i or y and Vice Versa.-- In 45 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted ei or ey for i or y in accented syllables, and in 13 cases they made the opposite substitution. Their preference for deye was evidently very strong. Occasionally they copied dye when it was necessary to preserve rime (there are 10 cases of such copying between A 353 and B 351), and in 3 cases they wrote dye for deye in order to preserve rime. But in 31 cases they substituted deye and inflected forms for dye and inflected forms. Only 7 of these substitutions preserve rime; 11 violate rime; the others are not at the end of a line. Moreover, in line A 1645 they substituted "he mote deye" for "he mote be dede."

No other word in the list of substitutions of ey for y occurs often enough for comment.³ Nor does any word in the list of substitutions of y for ey.

The Substitution of ie or ye for e or ee and Vice Versa.-- In 40 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted ie or ye for e or ee in accented syllables, and in 8 cases they made the opposite substitution. A complete list of words which exhibit the former

¹Eginhard Grosse, Die Neuzeitliche ea-Schreibung (Leipzig: Mayer and Mueller, 1937), p. 198.

²Certainly it is no disparagement of Grosse's helpful and interesting work to point out that he did not have access to the wealth of information recently made available in the Text. This statement applies also to my comments on Weiss's dissertation (p. 19 infra).

³This substitution was made also in unaccented syllables; gardeyn, gardeyns was written for gardyn, gardyns 9 times.

substitution is as follows: byelde, 1 case; chier, 10 cases; fieldes, 1 case; hield, 2 cases; lief, 1 case; lieste, lyeste, 2 cases; lyendes, 1 case; matier, 1 case; myschief, 1 case; siel, 1 case; stiel, 1 case; thieff, thief, 6 cases; wielded, 1 case; and wyengges, 1 case.¹

In 1937 when Weiss published his valuable dissertation Die ie (ee)-Schreibung im Englischen und ihre Geschichte, he also had only Wild's monograph to rely on for information about the spelling in the Chaucer MSS. Wild's information about the ie spellings (because they are relatively rare in the MSS he studied) was much less complete than that about the ea spellings; hence that portion of Weiss's survey needs to be supplemented by the information in the first volume of the Text. Study of either the sections on Dialect and Spelling in that volume or the MSS themselves makes clear that the number of ie spellings in MS G1 is small in comparison with that in a few of the other MSS.

The Substitution of ou for o and Vice Versa.--In 225 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted ou for o in accented syllables, and in 73 cases they made the opposite substitution. They substituted ou or ow for o before a nasal 25 times; and they made the opposite substitution 55 times.² No word occurs significantly often in either list.

In 200 cases they substituted ou or ow for o when no nasal follows; and they made the opposite substitution 18 times. The following words exhibit the former substitution between 10 and 20 times: douter, nought, thought, wrought, and ynough. In 65 cases though was written for thogh, yogh, thof, yof, or thoff. The total number of substitutions of ou or ow for o in preterites (as in thought, wrought, brought, bought, etc.) is 58.

The Substitution of uy or ui for y or i after g.--In 45 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted uy or ui for y or i after g; and they did not make the opposite substitution. A complete

¹Also the scribes made the substitution 7 times in syllables which do not bear stress in the lines in which they occur: autier, 5 cases; and sopier and sotiell, one case each. Note, however, that these words are of French origin and could bear stress on the second syllable.

²Both these substitutions were made in unaccented syllables also; the first, 3 times; and the second, 7 times.

list of the words involved is as follows:¹ aguyled, 1 case; beguyle, beguyled, 4 cases; disguysed, 1 case; guyde, guyden, guydeth, 6 cases; guye, 6 cases; guyle, 2 cases; guylour, 1 case; guylt, 3 cases; guyltlees, 3 cases; guyse, 13 cases; guyrdel, 1 case; guyte, 1 case; guyterne, 2 cases; and guyternynge, 1 case.

The Substitution of Single Vowels or of Vowel
Combinations for Other Single Vowels or Vowel
Combinations in Unaccented Syllables

As would naturally be expected, there are far fewer substitutions involving vowels or vowel combinations in unaccented syllables than in accented syllables. Those which occur are divided into the following six groups (as before "and vice versa" is to be understood after each group in this list): a for e, a for o, e for i, y or u for o, y for e, and y for i.

The Substitution of a for e and Vice Versa.--In 74 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted a for e in unaccented syllables; and they made the opposite substitution 42 times. The words Palamon (for Palemon, Palemoun, 47 cases) and verray (for verrey, 12 cases) are the only two which often exhibit the former substitution; and estate (for astate, 18 cases) is the only one which often exhibits the latter.²

The Substitution of a for o and Vice Versa.--Two words furnish most of the cases of the substitution of a for o in unaccented syllables. In 73 cases the scribes of MS G1 wrote anone for onon; ³ and in 23 cases they substituted Absalon for Absolon. There are only 3 cases of this substitution in other words, and no cases of the opposite substitution.

The Substitution of e for i and Vice Versa.--In 253 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted e for i in unaccented syllables; and in 39 cases they made the opposite substitution. These cases

¹There are 3 other cases of the insertion of u after g, all before e: gwesteg, B 1214; gueten, E 1437; and guete, E 1945. U is also inserted once between k and y (kuynges, F 432).

²As these words do not occur commonly, the scribes of MS G1 made the substitutions in question almost, if not quite, every time they had the opportunity.

³In 30 other cases they substituted initial a for o in this word (writing anon, anone, anoone, for onon, onone, and onoon in various combinations).

may be divided into five groups.

1. In 79 cases they substituted el or ell for il or ill. There are no cases of the opposite substitution. In 47 cases the el or ell is final. The substitution of litel or litell for litil or litill furnishes 38 of these 47 cases. In 28 cases the el precedes final y; and 11 of these cases are furnished by the substitution of hastely for hastily. There are 4 miscellaneous cases involving el or ell.

2. In 38 cases they substituted final es for final is; and in 23 cases they made the opposite substitution. Only one word occurs significantly often in either group; goddess was written for goddie 17 times.

3. In 38 cases they substituted er for ir and in 2 cases they made the opposite substitution. Under or compounds of under are involved in 18 of the 38 cases.

4. In 73 cases they substituted final eth for final ith; in one case they made the opposite substitution.

5. In 25 cases they made miscellaneous substitutions of e for i and in 13 cases they made miscellaneous substitutions of i for e.

It may be of some interest to note that the scribes of MS G1 substituted e for i in unaccented syllables more than half as often as they made the substitution in accented syllables (see p. 14 supra).

The Substitution of u or v for o and Vice Versa.--In 100 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted vpon for opon; and in 2 cases, vnto for onto. In 35 cases they substituted on- for vn- as a negative prefix. There are only 10 other cases of the substitution of o for u or v in unaccented syllables.

The Substitution of y for e and Vice Versa.--In 245 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted y for e in unaccented syllables; and in 78 cases they made the opposite substitution. These substitutions may be divided into four groups.

1. In 62 cases they substituted final ys for final es; in 10 cases they made the opposite substitution. No word occurs noticeably often in either list.

2. In 155 cases they substituted initial unaccented by for be.¹ There are no cases of the opposite substitution. The

¹See p. 16 supra for the numerous cases of the substitution of by for be, preposition.

following words occur most often: byfore, byforn, byforne, 35 cases; bygin, 41 cases; and bytwix, 14 cases.

3. In 3 cases they wrote final yth for final eth; and in 20 cases they made the opposite substitution.

4. In 25 cases they made miscellaneous substitutions of y for e in unaccented syllables; and in 48 cases they made miscellaneous substitutions or e for y.

The Substitution of y for i and Vice Versa.--In 230 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted y for i in unaccented syllables; and in 25 cases they made the opposite substitution.¹ A few subdivisions are possible, but their totals are comparatively small. They are as follows:

1. 10 cases of -yed for -ied
2. 13 cases of -yon, -yons for -ion, -ioun, -iouns
3. 15 cases of -yes for -ies
4. 17 cases of -ye for -ie.

In 6 cases each they substituted medial y for i in Alyson and euerychon; and in 11 cases they made this substitution in gentvlnesse.

The Addition or Omission of Unaccented Vowels

The cases of addition or omission of unaccented vowels may be divided into three groups: the addition or omission of unaccented vowels which either are or resemble developed vowels, the addition or omission of unaccented e before suffixes and the second members of compounds, and the addition or omission of final unaccented e.

The Addition or Omission of Developed Vowels or of Unaccented Vowels which Resemble Developed Vowels.--In 100 cases the scribes of MS G1 omitted developed vowels found in the exemplar. In 31 other cases they omitted a medial vowel which possibly looked like a developed vowel to them, although in most of the 31 cases the vowel occurred before an inflectional suffix or originally belonged to the word. The following words exhibit the omission most often: folwe, 10 cases; morwe and tomorwe, 18 cases; and gorwe, 33 cases. On the other hand the scribes added a medial vowel in 18 cases, in 6 of which the addition is historically correct.

¹For the substitution of y for i and vice versa in accented syllables, see pp. 16-17 supra.

Interesting special cases are owen and elles. They substituted owen for own 31 times, and elles for els or ells 34 times.

The Addition or Omission of Unaccented e before Suffixes or the Second Members of Compounds.--The scribes of MS G1 comparatively often added an unaccented e before suffixes and the second members of compounds. They did so most frequently before the ly in adverbs, the total number of cases being 54. Only 16 of these cases are metrically justifiable. In 27 cases, only 3 of which are metrically justifiable, they wrote shortely for schortly. No other word exhibits the addition often enough to justify comment. In relatively few of the 27 other cases of the addition of unaccented e before ly in adverbs is the addition historically justified. In only one case, which is both metrically and historically justified, did the scribes of MS G1 omit an e which appears in MS Mm before ly in an adverb.

There are a few cases each of the addition of unaccented e before suffixes or the second members of compounds of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs (with suffixes other than ly), verbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections, but not a sufficient number to justify detailed analysis. The total number of cases of addition of unaccented e is 61; of omission, 14. The majority of the cases of addition are both metrically and historically unjustified; the opposite is true of the cases of omission. No word occurs sufficiently often in either list to justify comment except thereas; the scribes of MS G1 substituted thereas for theras 11 times. (See pp. 76, 78 *infra* for the addition of final e in the case of there.)

The tendency to add unaccented e before suffixes and the second members of compounds stands out in sharp contrast to the practice with regard to final e.

The Addition or Omission of Final Unaccented e.--Although it seemed futile to hope that any conclusions of importance could emerge from a detailed study of the addition and omission of final e by the scribes of MS G1, I decided to undertake it, on the ground that such an opportunity as is afforded by MS G1 for the study of a fifteenth-century scribe's practice with regard to final e is almost, if not quite, unique. Accordingly the cases of addition and omission of final e were collected for each part of speech and checked to see whether or not they can be justified on metrical grounds.

Although the results of the investigation are no more significant than appeared probable at the beginning of the undertaking, they will be presented, because the same curiosity which prompted the investigation may lead the reader to wish to know the results. The space required for detailed presentation is so disproportionate, however, that it seems best to relegate the details to an appendix and give only a brief summary here.

The scribes of MS G1 omitted final e in more than 4,500 cases, involving all the parts of speech. In the majority of these cases the omission can be justified on historical grounds, but there are numerous cases in which they omitted final e from verb forms which should have had it (according to the grammar of an earlier period) and from weak adjectives. The number of additions of final e, a total of fewer than 2,500 cases, is small in comparison with the total of omissions, and involves a relatively far smaller number of words; additions of final e to the following 6 words make up half the total: anone, 66 cases; haue, 123 cases; hise, 621 cases; myne, 61 cases; there, 150 cases; and wole, 228 cases.

It appears, then, that though the scribes of MS G1 had a decided tendency to omit final e from words representing all parts of speech, there were certain words which they thought should be spelled with final e, regardless both of meter and (unconsciously, no doubt) of historical grammar.

CHANGES INVOLVING CONSONANTS OR CONSONANT COMBINATIONS

The changes involving consonants or consonant combinations may be divided into three groups: the substitution of single consonants for double consonants and vice versa, the substitution of single consonants or consonant combinations for other single consonants or consonant combinations, and the addition or omission of consonants or consonant combinations.

The Substitution of Single Consonants for Double Consonants and of Double Consonants for Single Consonants

The main body of the substitutions of single consonants for double consonants and vice versa is presented first and then

two special groups are taken up. The totals first given are exclusive of the two special groups.

In 1,071 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted a single consonant for a double consonant; and in 352 cases they substituted a double consonant for a single consonant. The figures for l and f are presented separately; all the rest are in a group together.

1. They substituted single l for double l 560 times. In 246 cases the l is final in the spelling of MS G1. On the other hand, they substituted double l for single l 264 times, and in 214 cases l is in the final position. The following are the figures for the words which occur most often.

Single <u>l</u> for Double <u>l</u>	Double <u>l</u> for Single <u>l</u>
12 euel, euy1	161 all
14 fel	34 compounds of <u>all</u>
11 gentil, genty1, gentel	24 full
45 litel, lytel	16 till, tyll
47 shal	
208 wole	

Though the total number of cases of the substitution of double l for single l is considerable, all and its compounds make up so great a number of the total that a comparatively negligible number is left if they are subtracted--69 in fact. On the other hand, though wole furnishes a very large number of the cases of substitution of single l for double l, a considerable remainder is left if it is subtracted from the total--352, as opposed to the other total of 69. It appears, then, that with the exception of four words, the scribes of MS G1 had no strong tendency toward the use of double l, whereas they did have a strong tendency toward the use of single l, especially in the final position.

2. In 380 cases (none of which are in the initial position), the scribes of MS G1 substituted single f for double f; while they made the opposite substitution in only one case. Of the total of 380, 139 cases of single f are in the final position. In the other 241 cases, single f is historically justifiable. It seems clear, then, that in MS Mm there is a strong tendency toward unjustifiable doubling of f's, and that the scribes of MS G1 consistently substituted single f. The following are the words which

occur most often: gaf, yaf, gef, 23 cases; lyfe, 61 cases; of, 63 cases; wife, 22 cases, and wyfe, 110 cases; yf, if, 46 cases.

3. In 131 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted a single consonant other than f or l for a double consonant; and in 87 cases they substituted a double consonant other than f or l for a single consonant. The following are the words which occur most often. (The consonant involved is underlined.)

Single Consonants for Double	Double Consonants for Single
6 <u>f</u> regh	12 <u>ac</u> corde
14 i <u>u</u> ge	30 <u>ar</u> ray(e)
8 pa <u>r</u> ish, pa <u>r</u> ygh	9 me <u>rr</u> our, me <u>rr</u> ours
9 re <u>k</u> ne	

The doubling of consonants is in some cases connected with the tendency toward Latinized spellings (see p. 31 *infra*). According to the OED the following words were derived from a French word with a single consonant and were later "corrected" to a spelling with a double consonant under Latin influence. The figure given in parentheses indicates the number of times the scribes of MS G1 substituted the double consonant for the single consonant. The list is as follows: acomptes (1), accorded (12), allegge (1),¹ allve (3), and appoynted (1). Concerning array (30) and platte (1), the OED did not make a statement about respelling under Latin influence, but it gave Latin words with double consonants as cognates.

The two special cases are the doubling of g after n and the substitution of a double consonant plus e for a single final consonant.

In 93 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted ngg for ng. There is no case of the opposite substitution. No word occurs often in this list. Only two words exhibit the substitution more than five times: kyngges, 6 cases, and thyngg(e), 17 cases.

The figures for the other special case are much more considerable. In 355 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted a double consonant plus e for a single final consonant; and in 276 cases they made the opposite substitution. The cases of the

¹The consonant involved in this word is the l, not the g.

former substitution fall into 5 groups: -lle for -l (30 cases), -sse for -s (38 cases), -dde for -d (55 cases), -nne for -n (209 cases), and miscellaneous (22 cases).

The following is a list of words for which the substitutions were made most often.

Double Consonant plus <u>e</u> for Single Final Consonant	Single Final Consonant for Double Consonant plus <u>e</u>
8 goddesse	7 blak
11 badde (pret. of <u>bid</u>)	6 bras
34 hadde	9 fer
13 alle	27 god
106 thanne (for <u>yan</u> or <u>than</u>) ¹	77 had
26 thanne (for <u>yen</u> or <u>then</u>)	10 put
33 whanne (for <u>when</u>)	10 set
10 whanne (for <u>whan</u>)	6 wyf
9 whenne (for <u>when</u>)	

It is interesting to note that the majority of the substitutions in both lists are historically justified. It is amusing, however, that the scribes of MS G1 became so used to substituting -sse for -s that in line F 487 they wrote principlesse for the plural principles.

The Substitution of Single Consonants or Consonant Combinations for Other Single Consonants or Consonant Combinations

The substitutions of single consonants or consonant combinations for other single consonants or consonant combinations may be divided into the following 12 groups (as in similar lists given previously the expression "and vice versa" is to be understood after each): c for k, q for g, d for th, g for ch, g for z, tch for cch or ch, u or v for f, u or v for ff, u for w, v for u, y for j, and z for s.

The Substitution of c for k and Vice Versa.--In 66 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted c for k; and in 8 cases they substituted k for c. Forty-nine of the substitutions of c for k occur before g; and 14 occur before o. Can was substituted for kan 15 times, but no other word occurs often in either list. In

¹In 78 cases thanne means "than" and in 54 cases it means "then."

neither of the two MSS is k often used in words which are now spelled with c.

The Substitution of c for g and Vice Versa.--In 113 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted c for g; and in 10 cases they substituted g for c. Three words exhibit the former substitution noticeably often: concidre, 9 times; place, 19 times; and seruice, seruiceable, 17 times. Thirty-seven other words exhibit the substitution of c for g, most of them only once or twice.

The Substitution of d for th and Vice Versa.--In 87 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted d for th; and in 25 cases they made the opposite substitution. They wrote coude for couthe, cowthe, or kouthe 61 times; and hundred(e) for hundredth, 16 times. Only two words exhibit the substitution of th for d noticeably often: sothenly, sothen, 10 times; and whether, 9 times.

The Substitution of g for ch and Vice Versa.--In 15 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted g for ch; and they did not make the opposite substitution. No words exhibit the substitution often enough to attract attention, but as the phenomenon is a little odd, perhaps a list of the words involved may be of interest: charge, chaunge, liegeaunce, outrageous, vengeance. The scribes of MS G1 made the alteration of ch to g as often as it occurred in such words in the exemplar.

The Substitution of g for ȝ.¹--The scribes of MS G1 did not use the joch. Since that symbol was much used in the exemplar the number of substitutions is too great to record in full. Notes were taken on 3,150 lines evenly distributed (in groups of 100 or 200 lines) throughout the portion of the MS copied from MS Mm. In those 3,150 lines the scribes of MS G1 substituted g for ȝ 283 times. The list contains a great many words which exhibit the substitution infrequently (the scribe of MS Mm often used g and y as well as ȝ), but the following words exhibited it often enough to attract attention: bright (11 cases); myght, might (33 cases); nyght (20 cases); right (22 cases); wight (22 cases). There is no case of the substitution of ȝ for g.

The Substitution of Initial sh for sch.--In MS Mm initial sch was regularly used in such words as shall, she, shortly, shape, etc. On the other hand the scribes of MS G1 almost never copied

¹For a brief history of the use of this symbol see Otto Jespersen, Modern English Grammar (4th ed.; Heidelberg: Carl Winter, 1928), I, 22.

initial sch; they regularly substituted sh for it.

The Substitution of tch for cch or ch and Vice Versa.--The scribes of MS G1 substituted tch for cch or ch in 31 cases and they did not make the opposite substitution. A complete list of words involved is as follows: catche, 1 case; fetche, 3 cases; grutche, 5 cases; letchoure, 1 case; pitche, 1 case; retche, 3 cases; wretche, wretched, wretchedlye, wretchednesse, 17 cases.

The Substitution of u and v for f and Vice Versa.--In 119 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted u for f, and in 12 cases they substituted v for f. They made the opposite substitutions only 12 and 3 times respectively. They wrote haue for haf, hafe, hafen 118 times, and have for haf only 5 times. (They very seldom, if ever, copied an f in this word.)

The Substitution of u and v for ff.--In 78 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted v for ff and in 16 cases they substituted u for ff. They did not make either of the opposite substitutions. Only three words exhibit the substitution of v for ff noticeably often: love, 9 times;¹ lyve, 32 times; and veve and geve, 15 times. The scribes of MS G1, as is shown here and on pp. 25-26 supra, almost never copied an unhistorical double ff.

The Substitution of u for w and Vice Versa.--In 310 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted u for w; and in 167 cases they made the opposite substitution. In 7 words the substitution of u for w appears noticeably often: adoun, 13 times; cruel, 13 times; duelle, 34 times; slough, 6 times; toun, 23 times; and you, 87 times.² Only two words appear often in the list of substitutions of w for u: rowte, 10 times; and thow or pow, 119 times.³

The Substitution of v for u and Vice Versa.--In 436 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted v for u; and in 47 cases they substituted u for v. With very few words is either substitution made initially, but two of these words exhibit the substitution of initial v for u strikingly often: vp, 82 times; and vg, 88

¹The customary spelling of the word in MS G1 is love, and the customary spelling in MS Mm is loue.

²The regular spelling of you is yowe in MS Mm; and the scribes of MS G1 wrote yow about as often as they wrote you.

³The regular spelling of this word in MS Mm is you (the y representing a thorn) and the scribes of MS G1 copy it occasionally, but they usually write thow instead.

times. Other words to be noted are: above, 20 times; greve, grove, and knave 6 times each; leve, 19 times; and love, 101 times. The only two words which attract attention in the list of substitutions of u for v are deuyse, 9 times; and enuye, 6 times.

The Substitution of y for 3 and Vice Versa.--As has already been mentioned (see p. 28 supra), the scribes of MS G1 did not use the joch. For the substitution of y for 3 the same 3,150 lines were studied as for the substitution of g. In 162 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted y for 3. The following seven words are almost the only ones which appear in the list: ye, vee, 59 cases; veer, vere, 13 cases; yeuen, 15 cases; yong, 11 cases; youre, 59 cases; yow, you, 50 cases; and yet, 24 cases. As will be noted from the list, yeuen and inflected forms were substituted 15 times for spellings with 3; but the number of substitutions of geuen and inflected forms for spellings with 3 in these same lines is only 8. It seems, then, that the scribes of MS G1 preferred the spelling with y but that they did not have such strong feelings about it as they did about many other spellings.

The Substitution of z for s.--In 15 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted z for s. In 7 of these cases the z is in the final position. There are no cases of the opposite substitution.

The Addition or Omission of Single Consonants or of Consonant Combinations

The Addition and Omission of gh.--In 114 cases the scribes of MS G1 omitted gh; in 50 cases they added it. The following words exhibit the omission of gh frequently: douter, 21 cases; nat, 10 cases; saw(e), sey(e), 29 cases; and ynow, 10 cases. The only word which frequently exhibits the addition of gh is high, 31 cases. (See p. 15 supra for the numerous substitutions by the scribes of MS G1 of high for hiegh.)

Sometimes the scribes of MS G1 added gh to words in which it was historically incorrect. This was done once or twice each for the following words (the word in parenthesis after each is the modern equivalent): hoghe (hoof), hugh (hew), lygh (lie), rowght (rout meaning "snore"), stought (stout), towgh, tough (tow), whighte (white).¹

¹The number of cases of either the omission or the addition of gh is very small in comparison with the amount of the latter in the Paston Letters, and of the former in Capgrave's works, for example. See pp. 53, 59 infra.

The Addition and Omission of h.--The scribes of MS G1 added initial h 19 times and omitted it 9 times. In all cases except one the additions are historically correct; in all cases except 3 the omissions are historically correct. In 2 cases they substituted (correctly from the historical standpoint) initial wh for w. In 1 case they added h within a word and in 4 cases they omitted h within a word (correctly from the historical standpoint in 4 out of 5 of these cases). As the practices with regard to h in MS Mm were historically correct, on the whole, the scribes of MS G1 had little opportunity for alterations.

The Addition and Omission of 3.--Only one word is involved in the omission of 3 by the scribes of MS G1: if. In MS Mm this word frequently (by no means always) appears with initial 3. The scribes of MS G1 consistently substituted if or yf for 3if, 3iff, 3yf, or 3yff. I noted 60 cases of this substitution and am inclined to think that I overlooked some, as it soon became apparent that the scribes of MS G1 made the alteration consistently.

MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES

Latinized Spellings

In 52 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted Latinized spellings for Middle English spellings of certain words. The following are the words which exhibit the substitution of Latinized spellings (the spellings of the exemplar are given in parentheses): aduyce, aduyse (avys, avise, auyse), 9 cases; aduaile, aduayle (aveille, auaille), 5 cases; aduowe (avowe), 2 cases; example, exaump (ensample), 13 cases; exemple (ensemble), 1 case; perfecte (parfite), 10 cases; perfectly (parfitely), 3 cases; secrete, secretly (secre, secrely), 2 cases; subtely, subtyly (sotelly), 3 cases; and subtill, subtyle (sotell), 4 cases.

Metathesis

The Metathesis of er.--In 72 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted final re for final er; and they made the opposite substitution 7 times. Only one word occurs noticeably often in either list; fadre or fadres was substituted for fader or faders 19 times.

The Metathesis of t and h.--In 23 cases the scribes of MS G1 altered what evidently appeared to them as the incorrect metathesis of th or ht. In 4 cases they substituted ht for th: abought, bright, myght, and right. These are the only 4 cases occurring in the portion of MS Mm which the scribes of MS G1 copied from that exemplar.

In 19 cases they substituted th for ht: length, 5 cases; and strength, 14 cases. There is little irregularity with regard to th in the exemplar; and the scribes of MS G1 altered all the cases which appeared.

Special Cases

Nerthelesse.--In 19 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted nerthelesse for nathelesse or natheles. There is no case of the opposite substitution.

One.--In 28 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted one for oo (17 cases), oone (7 cases), o (3 cases), or oon (1 case). They very seldom, if ever, copied any of the spellings just mentioned. The spelling one, however, occurs moderately often in the exemplar, and they copied it invariably.

True, Truly.--In 23 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted true for trew, and in 3 cases they substituted ontrue for vntrewe. In 13 cases they substituted truly for trewly and in one case for trewliche. They very seldom copied the older spelling.

Suche.--In 51 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted suche for swiche (46 cases), swyche, shuche, and cyche. Suche, however, often appears in MS Mm and they always copied it.

It is clear from the details in the preceding pages that the scribes of MS G1 made numerous and systematic changes in spelling as they copied MS Mm; but the changes are so numerous that it is hardly possible for anyone to remember them. It seems, therefore, that a list of the words which most often exhibit the changes just presented may be useful. This list is divided into groups according to the number of times the words exhibit the changes they illustrate: the first, 100 times or more; the second, 50 to 99 times; the third, 20 to 49 times; and the fourth, fewer than 20 times.¹ The making of this division does not imply that the

¹Words exhibiting the addition or omission of final e are

number of times a change is made necessarily determines its importance in the spelling system of the scribes of MS G1, but the number of occurrences has a certain interest in all cases.

The number of cases is given for each word. The letters involved in the change which is being illustrated are underlined: in this list underlining to indicate abbreviation is not used. The spellings in parentheses are the spellings of the exemplar. The list is made up almost altogether of words which illustrate certain changes; but in a few cases changes are listed instead of words which exemplify them, because in these few cases the changes seemed especially important per se.

The Spelling System of MS G1

I		I	
Spelling	No. of Cases	Spelling	No. of Cases
<u>weel</u> (<u>wel</u> e) adv.	179	<u>hise</u> (his).	621
<u>they</u> (<u>ve</u> i).	229	<u>there</u> (<u>yer</u>)	100
<u>thy</u> (<u>vi</u>).	113	<u>now</u> (<u>nowe</u>).	176
<u>by</u> (<u>be</u>) prep.	120	<u>yow</u> (<u>yowe</u>).	116
<u>nat</u> (<u>not</u>)	191		
<u>wole</u> (will, woll, etc.) .	228		
<u>by-</u> (be-) unaccented. . .	155		
<u>all</u> (<u>al</u>) and compounds. .	195		
<u>thanne</u> (<u>yen</u> , <u>yan</u>)	132		
<u>thow</u> (<u>you</u>).	119		
<u>ypon</u> (<u>o</u> pon)	100		
<u>haue</u> (<u>haf</u>).	115		
II		II	
<u>these</u> (<u>y</u> ise).	51	<u>kyng</u> (<u>kyng</u> e).	62
<u>if</u> , <u>yf</u> (<u>3</u> iff)	61	<u>thyng</u> (<u>thyng</u> e).	68
<u>yet</u> (<u>3</u> it)	67	<u>self</u> (<u>self</u> e).	53
<u>any</u> (<u>eny</u>)	62	<u>out of</u> (<u>oute</u> of).	79
<u>whan</u> (<u>when</u>)	73	<u>seid</u> , <u>said</u> (<u>seide</u> , <u>saide</u>)	68
<u>though</u> (<u>yogh</u> , <u>yof</u>). . . .	65	<u>ben</u> (<u>beng</u>).	62
<u>seid</u> , <u>seide</u> (<u>said</u> , <u>saide</u>)	55	<u>myne</u> (<u>myn</u>).	61

included in only the first two groups, as the addition or omission of final e is of doubtful significance.

II (Cont'd)

Spelling	No. of Cases
many (<u>mony</u>)	95
goth (<u>goith</u>)	50
<u>anone</u> (<u>onon</u>)	70
<u>ngg</u> (<u>ng</u>)	93
<u>vp</u> (<u>up</u>)	83
<u>vs</u> (<u>us</u>)	87
love (<u>loue</u>)	86
you (<u>yowe</u>)	87
<u>coude</u> (<u>couth</u>)	61
<u>suche</u> (<u>swiche</u> , <u>swyche</u>) . .	51
brought (<u>broght</u>) and other preterits	58

III

preest (<u>preste</u>)	44
woord, <u>woorde</u> (<u>worde</u>) . .	49
year (<u>ere</u>)	25
wight (<u>wyght</u>)	28
<u>dede</u> (<u>did</u>)	29
yef, yeve, <u>gef</u> , etc. (<u>3if</u> , <u>3iff</u>)	42
her, <u>here</u> (<u>hir</u> , <u>hire</u>) . .	39
<u>hir</u> (<u>here</u> , <u>her</u>)	47
<u>sith</u> , <u>sithens</u> (<u>seth</u> , <u>sethens</u>)	39
lete (<u>lat</u>)	31
<u>petous</u> (<u>pitous</u>), also <u>pety</u>	31
<u>fanne</u> (<u>yen</u> , <u>yanne</u>) . . .	32
<u>whanne</u> (<u>when</u>)	33
<u>herde</u> , <u>herd</u> (<u>harde</u> , <u>hard</u>) .	26
<u>deye</u> (<u>dye</u>)	31
<u>must</u> (<u>most</u>)	28
<u>luste</u> (<u>liste</u> , <u>leste</u>) verb.	35
<u>ayen</u> (<u>ayein</u>)	23
<u>dooth</u> , <u>doth</u> (<u>doith</u> , <u>doyth</u>)	33

II (Cont'd)

Spelling	No. of Cases
<u>anone</u> (<u>onon</u>)	70
<u>euere</u> (<u>euer</u>)	55
<u>telle</u> (<u>tell</u>)	59

III

elles (<u>els</u> , <u>ells</u>)	34
sorwe (<u>sorowe</u>)	33
<u>litel</u> , <u>litell</u> (<u>litill</u>) . .	38
<u>litel</u> , <u>lytel</u> (<u>litill</u>) . .	45
<u>Palamon</u> (<u>Palemon</u>)	47
<u>Absalon</u> (<u>Absolon</u>)	23
<u>shal</u> (<u>schall</u>)	47
<u>full</u> (<u>ful</u>)	24
ie (e or ee)	40
ea (e or ee)	26
guy- (<u>gy-</u>)	45
<u>array</u> (<u>aray</u>)	30
<u>whanne</u> (<u>whan</u> , <u>when</u>) . .	43
<u>god</u> (<u>godde</u>)	27
<u>douter</u> (<u>doghter</u>)	21
saw, sey (<u>sawgh</u>)	29
<u>aboye</u> (<u>aboue</u>)	20
<u>toun</u> (<u>town</u>)	23
true, truly (<u>trewe</u> , <u>trewly</u>)	26

III (Cont'd)

Spelling	No. of Cases
<u>high</u> (<u>hiegh</u>)	32
<u>owen</u> (<u>own</u>)	31

IV

<u>deth</u> (<u>deeth</u>)	19
<u>blood</u> (<u>blode</u>)	15
<u>moost</u> (<u>mooste</u>)	15
<u>tree</u> (<u>tre</u>)	15
<u>twoo</u> (<u>two</u>)	14
<u>three</u> (<u>thre</u>)	12
<u>woo</u> (<u>wo</u>)	11
<u>see</u> (<u>se</u>)	10
<u>fier</u> (<u>fire</u>)	14
<u>Diane</u> (<u>Dyane</u>)	7
<u>myller</u> (<u>meller</u>)	10
<u>massage</u> , <u>massanger</u> (<u>mes-</u> <u>sage</u> , etc.)	14
<u>frute</u> (<u>fruyt</u> , <u>fruyte</u>)	7
<u>but</u> (<u>bot</u>)	18
<u>torne</u> (<u>turne</u>)	15
<u>ageyn</u> (<u>agayn</u>)	13
<u>moch</u> (<u>myche</u> , <u>mychell</u>)	16
<u>lyth</u> (<u>lieth</u>)	8

III (Cont'd)

Spelling	No. of Cases
<u>one</u> (<u>oo</u> , <u>o</u> , <u>oon</u> , <u>oone</u>)	28
<u>on-</u> (<u>vn-</u>) neg. pref.	35
<u>she</u> (<u>scho</u>)	22

IV

<u>folwe</u> (<u>folowe</u>)	10
<u>morwe</u> , <u>tomorwe</u> (<u>morowe</u> , etc.)	29
<u>hastely</u> (<u>hastily</u>)	11
<u>goddes</u> (<u>goddis</u>)	17
<u>verray</u> (<u>verrey</u>)	12
<u>estate</u> (<u>astate</u>)	18
<u>iuge</u> (<u>iugge</u>)	14
<u>accorde</u> (<u>acorde</u>)	12
<u>certeynly</u> (<u>certainly</u>)	10
<u>merrour</u> (<u>merour</u>)	9
<u>goddesse</u> (<u>goddeg</u>)	8
<u>place</u> (<u>plage</u>)	19
<u>seruice</u> (<u>seruise</u>)	17
<u>hundred</u> (<u>hundreth</u>)	16
<u>sothenly</u> (<u>sodenly</u>)	10
<u>deuyse</u> (<u>devyse</u>)	9
<u>fadre</u> , <u>fadres</u> (<u>fader</u> , <u>faders</u>)	19
<u>nerthelesse</u> (<u>nathelesse</u> , <u>natheles</u>)	19

CHAPTER II

A COMPARISON OF THE SPELLING SYSTEM OF THE GLASGOW MS WITH THE SPELLING SYSTEMS OF THE OTHER MSS OF THE CANTERBURY TALES

One naturally wishes to know whether any other MSS of the Canterbury Tales have spelling systems similar to that of MS G1. Since we do not know the exemplars used by the scribes who wrote the other MSS, we cannot speak so positively about them as about MS G1; but with the use of the concordance it is possible to look up a sufficient number of cases of any given word to determine at least what spelling predominates in a particular MS.

Since it seems to me that the most striking feature of the spelling system of MS G1 is the combination of modern spellings with Middle-English spellings from which dialect peculiarities have, for the most part, been eliminated, I searched for MSS with this combination. First I examined each photostat to see whether it contained these three modern features: Latinized spellings of advise, avail, avow,¹ example, perfect, recognizance, and subtle; the substitution of guy- or gui- for gy- or gi-² in guy, guide, guise, guile and beguile, and guilt and guilty; and the modern spelling of true and truly.³ If a MS did not have

¹Latinized spellings of avail and avow were, of course, dropped later, but it seemed best to include them here.

²See Jespersen, Modern English Grammar, I, 23, for an explanation of this spelling and a brief account of its early history.

³Some explanation of this choice should be offered. These three were the only features of the spelling system of the Glasgow MS (with the exception of the ea and the ie spellings) which the experience I had had with Middle English literature before beginning this investigation enabled me to identify with certainty as spellings which occurred rarely, if at all, before the fifteenth century. The OED, helpful as it is, is not an infallible guide in such a situation as this, because it naturally could not present the spelling history of all words (of this group, for example, only that of perfect is given). When this is not done, it is impossible to determine from the evidence in the OED whether a spelling in a certain quotation is a sporadic case or one of

some spellings from each of these three groups, it was not examined further except in two cases: MS En,³ which is so much like MS Ad¹ in spelling that it seemed worth studying; and MS El, which is so highly regarded as an example of "good" early spelling¹ that comparison with it seemed desirable.

The photostats of the MSS containing these three features were further examined. Eventually the following were chosen for detailed investigation:²

Name of MS	Sigil	Date
Ellesmere	El	1400-1410
Cambridge Ii.	Ii	1430-1450
Holkham	Hk	1440-1450
Devonshire.	Ds	1450-1460
Harley 7333	Ha ³	c. 1450-1460
Trinity Cambridge R. 3. 3. .	To ¹	1450-1460
Egerton 2864.	En ³	1460-1480
Additional 5140	Ad ¹	1470-1500

From this group MS Ha³ was later eliminated.

The following are the figures for Latinized spellings, gui- spellings, and the modern spelling of true, tru in the seven MSS which survived successive eliminations.

many cases for that period.

My experiences with the photostats of the Chaucer MSS and with other writings of the fifteenth century confirmed my impression that these three types of spellings were still relatively rare during the early and middle decades of the fifteenth century.

I decided not to investigate the ea and ie spellings because dissertations have been written on them recently (see pp. 17-19 supra) and because the sections on the dialect and spelling of each MS given in the first volume of the Text furnish the information needed to supplement the gaps in the dissertations.

¹Text, I, 151.

²The names, dates, and sigils of the MSS are taken from Text, II, 46-48.

Spelling	El	Ii	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
subtle, subtly	26	27	22	9	13	15	15
example, exemple	1	1	0	3	2	8	7
guy, guye	0	0	3	7	6	7	7
guide	0	1	2	8	7	7	7
guise	0	0	0	13	12	11	10
guile, beguile	0	0	0	6	6	0	0
truly, truly	0	34	14	33	31	0	19
true	0	16	4	9	1	0	2

It is interesting to note that the Latinized spelling of subtle¹ was the first to get into the extant MSS of the Canterbury Tales in any considerable quantity.² I found no Latinized spellings of advice, avow, avail and perfect in any of the seven MSS studied³ nor did I find any in the discarded MSS except for a few cases of advice or advise in several MSS and a few cases of perfect in the Paris MS. Recognizance I found only in Caxton's second edition. Adventure occurs in some, but as it does not occur in the part of MS G1 copied from MS Mm, I did not include it.

As one would expect, because of its early date, the gui-spellings and the modern spelling of true and truly do not occur in MS El. Examination of the figures for the other MSS shows that guide is the only one of the gui-spellings which occurs in all six; that guile and beguile occur in only two; and that guise, though it is not present in two of the MSS, occurs, in those which

¹See Jespersen, Modern English Grammar, I, 390, for a list of other words which acquired a b under learned influence.

²In the discarded MSS subtle predominates over the other Latinized spellings just as strikingly as in these. This is not, however, the case in MS G1 (see p. 31 supra).

³It was out of the question to look up every line in which each of the words occurred, but I took great care to look up a sufficient proportion of each total to be sure that whatever the spelling of the remaining it could not affect my conclusions. Also I chose line numbers well distributed throughout the MSS, since in some MSS there is a tendency for certain spellings to occur in patches. These statements apply to all the rest of the spellings I investigated, except that, of course, when a word occurred a relatively small number of times, I looked up all the cases.

have it, in larger numbers than the other three words I found the gui- spelling of guilt and guilty in the photostats of none of the MSS and, furthermore, in none of the other fifteenth-century works which I have examined.¹ It seems that in this spelling the scribes of MS G1 were ahead of their time.

During my study of the photostats I was struck by the fact that many MSS which contained modern spellings of truly retained the ancient spelling of true.² MS I1 contains a greater number of the modern spellings of both words than any of the others in this group, and MS Ds ranks next.

It is harder to present the results of the investigation of the other spellings preferred by the scribes of MS G1 because of their large number. It appeared to be unnecessary as well as unreasonably laborious to investigate the extent to which the entire number of characteristic G1 spellings³ appeared in the chosen group of seven MSS. First I eliminated the omission and addition of final e⁴ and then decided to do all the others in the first and second groups except a few which were impracticable and a few which appeared relatively unimportant. From the third and fourth groups I selected those which I thought I could find in greatest quantity in other fifteenth-century writings and those which are most often discussed in studies of dialect, choosing many more from the third than the fourth group, since the numbers in the fourth group are so small that in some cases they seem to have little significance.

The results of the investigation will be presented in three groups; those which occur in all seven MSS; those which occur in none of the seven; and those which occur in some but not in others.

¹It is natural that guilt, a word of OE origin, should adopt this OF spelling device later than the words of OF origin.

²Since true occurs fairly often at the end of a line riming with new, the scribes may have been encouraged by this fact to retain the old spelling; it is a commonplace that most of them wished their rimes to look like rimes.

³For convenience the sigil G1 is used as an adjective before the noun spelling. The expression "G1 spellings" refers to the spellings preferred by the scribes of MS G1 as determined by the comparison with the spellings of MS Mm.

⁴Conclusions of significance could hardly be drawn and the amount of work required would be inordinate.

The following is a list of the G1 spellings predominant in all seven of the MSS studied. The Roman numerals indicate the groups used in presenting the spelling system of MS G1 (see p. 32 supra).

I

1. Hauē, have instead of haf, hafe, haff, or haffe
2. Initial y instead of o in upon

II

1. O or oo instead of oi in the 3 sg., pres. ind. of go
2. A instead of o or e in many
3. Initial a instead of o in anon
4. A decided predominance of ei over ai in said
- 5 and 6. Initial y instead of u in us and up

III

1. Palamon instead of Palemon or Palemoun
2. Elles or ellis instead of els or ells
3. Yeve, yeue, geve instead of gif, giff, yif, give, etc.
4. O or oo instead of oi in the 3 sg. pres. ind., of do

The following is a list of G1 spellings which are present in none of the seven MSS to any significant extent.

I

1. Final w instead of u in thou
2. Weel instead of well, wel, wele (adverb)

II

None

III

1. Lust (verb) instead of list, lest
2. E instead of i in the first syllable of piteous, pity
3. Omission of gh in daughter
4. E instead of ei or ai in the second syllable of again

IV

1. A instead of e in the first syllable of message, messenger

In addition to the twelve spellings present in all seven MSS and those presented in the tabulation of the three modern

spellings, each MS has a noteworthy number of the other spellings investigated. In the following tabulation the complete list is presented. In order to save space when designating the various spellings, alternative spellings with final unaccented e or with þ instead of th are not indicated. In every case the spellings given in parentheses are those which occur in the MSS that do not have the G1 spelling. Since in some cases figures might be actually misleading and in all cases they would cause unnecessary labor of interpretation to the reader, none are given. Instead, each space contains the sigil of the MS in question, or the sigil underlined, or nothing at all. The presence of the sigil indicates at least a striking preponderance of the spelling in question; the presence of the sigil underlined means that there is so great a number of both the G1 spelling and of some other that neither can be said to preponderate; a blank space means that the particular G1 spelling appears in the MS in question either infrequently or not at all. Roman numerals indicate the same groups indicated on p. 32 supra.

MS Ad¹ presents a special problem because of its two scribes with their varying habits. The sigil of the MS is used if both scribes used the G1 spelling in question predominantly; but if only one did so, either "Sc. 1" or "Sc. 2" is used. Naturally a blank space means that neither used it predominantly. In the case of MS En³ the second scribe wrote so little (comparatively) that satisfactory generalizations about his practices can not be made. The use of the sigil En³, therefore, refers to the work of the scribe who wrote almost all of the MS.

Spelling	El	I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
I							
Final <u>y</u> (1) in <u>they</u>	El	I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Sc. 1
Final <u>y</u> (1) in <u>thy</u>	El	I1	<u>Hk</u>			<u>En³</u>	
<u>Yf</u> , <u>if</u> (<u>3if</u> , <u>vif</u>)	El	I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹		Sc. 1
<u>All</u> (<u>al</u>) when without final <u>e</u>		I1	Hk		Tc ¹		<u>Sc. 1</u>
Final <u>nne</u> on <u>then</u> , <u>than</u>	El		Hk				Sc. 1
Initial <u>by</u> (<u>be</u>) unaccented	El				Tc ¹	En ³	Sc. 1

Spelling	E1	I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Nat</u> (not)	E1		Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Hise</u> (his)	E1						
II							
<u>V</u> (u) in <u>love</u>		I1	Hk			En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Ou</u> (o) in <u>bought</u> , <u>thought</u> , etc.		I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>D</u> (th) in <u>coude</u>	E1		<u>Hk</u>	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Such</u> (swich)		I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Whan</u> (when)	E1			Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Any</u> (eny, ony)	E1	I1		Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>These</u> , <u>theese</u> (this, thise)	E1	I1		Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Yet</u> , <u>yett</u> (yit, vitt)	E1		Hk				<u>Sc. 1</u>
<u>Though</u> (thouh, <u>thogh</u> , <u>thou3</u>)	E1		Hk				
III							
<u>Ded</u> (e) (<u>did</u> (e))						En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Woord</u> (e) (<u>word</u> (e))							Sc. 2
<u>Yeer</u> (yer, vere)	E1					En ³	Sc. 1
<u>Must</u> (e) (<u>most</u> (e))			Hk	Ds	Tc ¹		
Double <u>r</u> (single <u>r</u>) in <u>array</u>	E1	I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
Final single <u>l</u> in <u>little</u>	E1			<u>Ds</u>		En ³	Ad ¹
Final single <u>l</u> in <u>shall</u>	E1			Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Sc. 2
<u>Sorwe</u> (<u>sorowe</u> , <u>sorewe</u>)	E1			Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
Unaccented <u>e</u> (i) in <u>little</u>	E1	I1				En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Owen</u> , <u>owene</u> (<u>owne</u> , <u>own</u>)	E1		Hk				
<u>Tch</u> for <u>cc</u> <u>h</u>			Hk				
<u>High</u> (hve, <u>hih</u> , <u>hi3e</u> , etc.)		I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹		
<u>One</u> (o, oo, oon, oone)			Hk				
<u>Deve</u> , <u>deie</u> (<u>dve</u> , <u>die</u>)		I1	<u>Hk</u>			En ³	<u>Ad¹</u>

Spelling	E1	I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Whanne, whenne</u> (<u>whan</u> , <u>when</u>)			Hk				Ad ¹
<u>Thanne, than</u> (<u>thenne</u> , <u>then</u>)	E1	I1		Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Let, lete</u> (<u>lat</u> , <u>late</u>)		I1	Hk				
<u>Absalon</u> (<u>Absolon</u>)		I1					
IV							
<u>Ageyn, agein</u> (<u>agayn</u> , <u>again</u>)		I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Hastely</u> (<u>hastily</u>)		I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹		Ad ¹
<u>Estate, estat</u> (<u>astate</u> , <u>astat</u>)	E1	I1	Hk	Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Sc. 1
<u>Preest</u> (<u>preste</u> , <u>prest</u>)	E1	I1				En ³	Sc. 2
<u>Diane</u> (<u>Dyane</u>)			Hk	Ds	Tc ¹		
<u>Moch, moche</u> (<u>mych</u> , <u>much</u>)				Ds	Tc ¹	En ³	Ad ¹
<u>Fier</u> (<u>fire</u> , <u>fir</u> , <u>fyr</u> , etc.)						En ³	Ad ¹

The list of totals for the spellings in the preceding tabulation (with the exception of that for MS Ad¹, which requires special comment) is as follows:¹

MS E1 . . 23	MS Ds . . 20 plus 1 doubtful case
MS I1 . . 14 plus 6 doubtful cases	MS Tc ¹ . . 21 plus 1 doubtful case
MS Hk . . 22 plus 3 doubtful cases	MS En ³ . . 24 plus 1 doubtful case

The number of G1 spellings used by both scribes of MS Ad¹ is 19 plus one doubtful case. It appears that Scribe 1 might very well have piled up a greater total than that of any of the other MSS, but it does not seem proper to consider him on an equal basis with the other scribes, since he wrote much less than they did.² Ms Ad¹, therefore, is omitted from the following discussion.

¹In addition each of the seven MSS has the twelve spellings given in the list on p. 40 supra and some of the modern spellings tabulated on p. 38 supra.

²One must consider the fact that in many MSS certain spellings occur in patches.

It is obvious from the list given above that MSS En³, El, and Hk have the largest total numbers of Gl spellings. Though MS En³ has a somewhat larger total than the other two, I did not suspect that fact while studying it; whereas throughout my examination of MSS El and Hk I was struck by the similarity of their spelling systems to that of MS Gl. Probably the chief reason why a page of MS En³ looks different from a page of MS Gl is that the former has many spellings which are strikingly different from those of MS Gl. A complete account of these differences would not be in order here; but the following are three points of especial significance. First, in contrast to the consistency in the spellings of MSS El, Hk, and Gl, we find in MS En³ such variations as the following:

save	wemen	keuerid	fowhten
saff	vooemen	kevered	fauht
sauf	women	keveryd	fouthe
sauff	wymen	coverid	fouthte
		<u>couered</u>	fouthen

Furthermore, odd spellings (e.g., vere for were, whrechid for wretched, and sevt for suit), though not often used for any given word, appear frequently enough to keep the reader wondering what will turn up next, an experience impossible to the reader of MSS El, Hk, and Gl. A third important difference is the use of ht for ght; though just one phenomenon, it involves so many words which occur often (wrouht, auhte, thouht, brouht, for example) that it contributes greatly to the effect of dissimilarity from MS Gl.

The spelling system of MS Hk, on the other hand, has only two features¹ which are noticeably different from that of MS Gl: (1) a tendency to double final consonants and (2) a tendency to double final consonants and add e (without historical justification in either case). Examples are cruell, deuell, gentille, canne, and prisonne. Neither tendency is sufficiently pronounced to attract much attention. In MS El the tendency to use k instead of c in can and coude is the only striking difference from the system of MS Gl.

Significant differences and total number of similarities are not the only points to be considered. Study of the tabulation

¹In addition, of course, to those implied by the absence of its sigil from certain spaces in the tabulation. This qualification is to be taken for granted in the statement about MS El also.

reveals that in the case of MS En³, the spellings shared with MS Gl are, with few and relatively unimportant exceptions, those shared also by a majority of the other seven MSS. This is not the case with MSS El and Hk.

MS El shares with MS Hk alone three Gl spellings which are not found in the other five MSS: e instead of i in yet; owen instead of owne or own; ¹ and a predominance of though over such spellings as thogh, thouh, or thou3. MS Hk, in addition to these three spellings shared with MS El only, is the only one of the seven MSS which has the following Gl spellings: anone; ² one instead of o, oo, oon, oone; and tch for cch as in wretch. Three of the spellings just mentioned are numerically important in the spelling system of the scribes of MS Gl (having been often substituted for the spellings of the exemplar), ³ whereas the two which En³ shares with only one other MS were not often substituted by the scribes of MS Gl for other spellings in the exemplar. ⁴ The spellings one and tch, though relatively unimportant in the spelling system of MS Gl from the numerical point of view, have another kind of significance: they appear rarely in the MSS of the Canterbury Tales and in all the other fifteenth-century writing which I have examined, except that written very late in the century. ⁵

In addition to these considerations it must be mentioned that, as pointed out on pp. 38-39 supra, MS El has no gui- spellings and no modern spellings of true and truly; MS En³ lacks the modern spelling of true and truly; but MS Hk has some spellings in both of these groups.

It is clear then that because of lack of noticeable dis-

¹MS Hk is the closer of the two to MS El; since the word always appears with final e in MS El (because it is preceded by a possessive pronoun it is inflected weak), whereas the final e does not appear in MSS Hk and Gl.

²As is indicated on p. 40 supra, all the MSS have initial a instead of o in anon; but MS Hk alone of the seven regularly has final e also.

³The numbers of substitutions for each is as follows: yet, 67; though, 65; anone, 70; owen, 31; tch, 31; and one, 28.

⁴The numbers are as follows: ded (did), 29; and fier (fyr, etc.), 14.

⁵They were not, however, suitable to add to the list of criteria mentioned on p. 36 supra; they are too rare in the MSS.

similarities from the spelling system of MS G1, because of a considerable number of similarities (including some shared by few or none of the other MSS), and because of the presence of all the groups of modern spellings, the spelling system of MS Hk is closer to that of MS G1 than is that of any of the other extant MSS of the Canterbury Tales.

The similarity between the systems of MSS G1 and E1, however, is remarkable enough to justify some emphasis. The early date of MS E1 precludes the possibility of most of the modern spellings, so striking a feature of MS G1; but that lack, since it is accompanied by so great a number of similarities, seems to imply merely that MS E1 made use at an early date of a spelling system which MS G1 used seventy years later with the addition of a few modern "improvements." The hypothesis of any direct connection, such as the G1 scribes' having had access to MS E1 (or to MS Hg, which has approximately the same spelling system) is hardly to be entertained without some external evidence. The supposition that the scribes of MSS E1 and G1 were using the same spelling tradition is much more plausible.

Is there evidence that MSS E1, Hk, and G1 were written in the same part of the country? MS E1 was owned in the sixteenth century by a Suffolk family;¹ MS Hk was owned in the 15th century by a family of North Essex and Suffolk.² These facts obviously do not tell us anything about where the MSS were written. But the suggestion is made in the Text (I, 151) that (largely, it seems, because of its lack of dialect features) MS E1 "may well have been made in London." Study of the spellings in a considerable number of fifteenth-century writings has led me to the conclusion that there is good evidence in support of the hypothesis that the scribes of MS G1 were using, on the whole, a system of spelling³ in use by well educated Londoners of their day. The evidence is presented in the following chapter.

¹Text, I, 152, 153.

²Ibid., p. 288.

³It is impossible to use the expression "spelling system" with the meaning which it would have if applied to a phenomenon of modern times; it must be remembered that the greatest consistency which existed in the fifteenth century was accompanied by inconsistencies impossible in our day.

CHAPTER III

A COMPARISON OF THE SPELLING SYSTEM OF THE GLASGOW

MS WITH THE SYSTEMS OF OTHER WRITINGS OF

THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY

After the discovery of some reason to suppose that there is a fundamental similarity between the spelling system of MS Gl and that prevalent in London, the next step is, of course, to examine all available fifteenth-century writings of London provenience and compare their spellings with those in MS Gl. Equally obvious, since the MS is known to have been written by a citizen of Norwich, is the necessity of studying fifteenth-century Norfolk and Suffolk writings and comparing the results with the evidence gained from the examination of the London material.

In the study of fifteenth-century London spelling, four types of writings must be considered: official documents, letters, a chronicle written by a business man, and "literary" works. The student of the spelling of official documents encounters two handicaps: a relatively small number of documents are now in print; and even if an abundance of them were readily accessible, the evidence would be somewhat limited, since the vocabulary of official documents is inevitably much more restricted than that of most literary works.

Four monographs on the language of London documents are helpful: Morsbach's Ueber den Ursprung der neuenglischen Schriftsprache (Heilbronn: G. Henninger, 1888), Lekebusch's Die Londoner Urkundensprache von 1430-1500 (Halle: E. Karras, 1906), Friederici's Der Lautstand Londons um 1400 (Jena: Frommann, 1937), and Zopf's Zum Sprachgebrauch in den Kirchen-Urkunden von St.-Mary-at-Hill--London (1420-1559) (Berlin: Mayer and Mueller, 1910).¹ In view of the fact that none of them deals with spelling

¹The first and the third deal with documents of an earlier date than that of MS Gl. It is impracticable to try to follow a chronological development in studying them; their evidence about spellings is too scanty.

as such, the information obtained from them is as extensive as could reasonably be hoped. According to the evidence of these monographs, the following Gl spellings were prevalent in London in the fifteenth-century: a in many, even or agein instead of again, and e in these. The following Gl spellings were present in significant numbers: a in when, then, and than; y in such; bi- unaccented; o in much; ei or ey in said; e in yet and give; and a in not. There were rare examples of the following: Latinized spellings of subtle and advise; the modern spelling of true and truly; gui- instead of gi-; fier; ngg for ng; the omission of gh in daughter; and the historically incorrect addition of gh (as in wright for write). In addition to these it should be mentioned that, according to Lekebusch, the Latinized spelling of example prevails in the documents he studied, though it is not mentioned by the other three. It occurs twice, however, in the documents printed by Chambers and Daunt.

In only one case is there evidence in the monographs against a Gl spelling; according to the testimony of all four, dye prevails in the London documents, while deye is preferred by the Gl scribes.

Since the monographs were not written from the point of view of spellings, it is fortunate that some of the documents they analyze are in print. Chambers and Daunt's A Book of London English: 1384-1425 contains the documents analyzed by Frederici; and Littlehales' The Medieval Records of a London City Church contains many of the documents analyzed by Zopf. Study of the former furnishes a good deal of additional information about the spellings in fifteenth-century documents. The following Gl spellings were either prevalent or present in significant numbers in the documents printed by Chambers and Daunt: haue instead of haf; initial a in anon; ey or ay in the second syllable of certain (instead of certen); initial e in estate; initial y in up; and elleg (instead of ellis or ela). Moreover, there is a considerable proportion of cases of final nne in then or than; and there are two cases of on-, negative prefix, three of tch for och, and one of the Latinized spelling of annull.¹ There is far less con-

¹Adnull does not occur in MS Gl, but this case is included as evidence of the Latinizing tendency early in the fifteenth century in London. For the same reason other ad- spellings are included in succeeding lists.

nected discourse in The Medieval Records of a London City Church, but in a copy of earlier documents which was made in 1486 there is a sufficient amount to establish the prevalence of preest, all, haue, yf, and nat. Scattered spellings of interest are furnished by one case each of the following: hise, guydyng, truly, and admoue.

In addition to official documents, some letters written by London citizens between 1462 and the end of the century are in print. According to Miss Kihlbom¹ forty-three of the letters from London correspondents in the Stonor Letters and Papers are autograph letters. Since the total amount of writing is not large and the vocabulary is necessarily limited in range, the following list of Gl spellings prevalent in the letters is as extensive as could be expected. The following spellings occur in preponderant or significant numbers: a in many and when; u in must and such; e in these, give, and yet; ou in thought, brought, etc.; and elleg. The spellings ayen and again are evenly balanced. The following rare cases are of interest: truly, 7; ngg, 3; and guide, advoide, hise, and dowter, 1 each.

A third source of information is the chronicle written (probably) by William Gregory, Mayor of London in 1450, and presumably copied from his MS. It appears that the person who copied it was not more highly educated than the author and that it is reasonably safe to consider the chronicle a dependable source of information about the spelling of a prominent business man of the mid-fifteenth century in London.² As we should expect of such a work, there are numerous odd spellings,³ but there are also considerable numbers of Gl spellings: a in many and any; by, prep. (instead of be); o in much; final nne in then and when; ou in thought, wrought, etc.; ay or ey instead of e in the second syllable of certain; initial acc in accord; e in give and let; final y in they; initial a in anon; ayenst or ayenne; final igh in high; regular ngg in hanggyd, hyngge, and Portynggale; yf; ellye; and

¹A Contribution to the Study of Fifteenth Century English (Uppsala: Almqvist and Wiksells, 1926), p. xxix.

²See James Gairdner's preface to The Historical Collections of a Citizen of London, Camden Society, New Series, XVII, v.

³Historically incorrect addition of h is frequent: Schottys, Schotlonde, schaaffold, schore, and whithe are the regular spellings for Scots, Scotland, scaffold, score, and with. Incorrect

one. Deve and dye occur in almost equal numbers. The following rare cases are interesting: hyse, 1; exampylle, 1; exampler, 1; massynger, 2; hastely, 3; and historically incorrect gh, 1.

In the works of Hoccleve, Pecock, and Caxton there is much more extensive evidence than in the material just discussed. No question has been raised as to Hoccleve's and Caxton's identification with London; but the works of Pecock, who was educated in Oxford, formerly were considered examples of the Oxford dialect.¹ A more recent tendency, however, is to classify his works as London writings.² As this view seems to me the more tenable,³ I have included his works with those of Hoccleve and Caxton. The following works of the three were chosen for examination: the three volumes of Hoccleve published by the Early English Text Society; Pecock's Donet, Folewer, and Reule of Cristen Religioun; and Caxton's Ordre of Chyualry, Book of Fayttes of Armes and of Chyualrye, The History of Jason, Eneydos, Blanchardyn and Eglantine, and Mirroure of the World.⁴ Since it would be unnecessarily confusing to the reader to attempt to present the details of the evidence in all these works, it seems best to choose one work from each author for detailed presentation. Hoccleve's De Regimine Principum is more usable than the other two volumes of his poetry because of its wider range of vocabulary; Pecock's works exhibit

doubling of consonants, especially of f and t (for example wyffe, gaffe, presentt, and fotte), is frequent. Initial a is regular in upon. Moreover there are scattered queer spellings which give an odd look to each page: for example, Fraynysche, enbassys-tourys, and pupplyscyde.

¹See E. V. Hitchcock's Introduction to her edition of the Donet (EETS, O. S., No. 156, p. xxii) for a brief summary of the views of Schmidt and Skeat.

²Ibid. See also H. C. Wyld, History of Modern Colloquial English (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., 1920), pp. 81-82.

³As Pecock spent nearly all his active life in London, much of it at court, he was probably as closely identified with London life as Caxton. For a brief biography and a list of more extensive biographical treatments see E. V. Hitchcock's Introduction to her edition of the Folewer (EETS, O. S., No. 164, pp. xviii-xxiv). Moreover the spellings in his works agree well with those in works of unquestioned London provenience. Evidence for this last statement is furnished in succeeding pages. See also the statement by Wyld already referred to in the two preceding footnotes.

⁴EETS editions of Caxton's and Pecock's works were also used.

a striking uniformity of both vocabulary and spelling, but the Reule of Crysten Religioun furnishes the most abundant evidence on account of its great length; and the first edition of Caxton's Mirroure of the World is especially suitable because its date is very near that of MS G1 and because it does not have the heavy Latinizing of Caxton's later works.¹ Evidence from these three works will be presented in full, together with that from four selected works from Norfolk and Suffolk, on pp. 55-57 *infra*. The totals of G1 spellings in all three are large. They will be discussed and compared with those of the works from Norfolk and Suffolk after a general presentation of the latter has been given.

A comparatively large quantity of material is available for the study of fifteenth-century spelling in Norfolk and Suffolk. Though most of it does not exist in holograph and we have no means of knowing whether it was copied as well as composed by natives of East Anglia, there is a sufficient "family likeness" in the spellings of the various works to inspire confidence that they furnish reasonably dependable evidence as to the spelling in those counties during the middle decades of the fifteenth century. The works of Lydgate, Capgrave, and Bokenham are especially valuable to the student of spelling: many of their writings are extant; some works of Capgrave are thought to exist in his own handwriting; and all three authors were educated people who would presumably give attention to spelling. Moreover in these works an extensive vocabulary is used. The Book of Margery Kempe is useful because its orthography (though obviously that of a less well educated person than the authors just mentioned)² is sufficiently consistent to be worth studying, and because its inordinate length supplies such large numbers of cases that generalizations can safely be made.

¹The dates of the three (of the MSS and of the edition, not of the composition), as accepted by the EETS editors, are as follows De Regimine Principum, c. 1430-1440; Reule of Crysten Religioun, c. 1443; and Mirroure of the World, first edition, 1480-1481.

²Professor S. B. Meech, in his Introduction to his edition of the Book (EETS, O. S., No. 212, pp. viii-ix) expresses the opinion that there are excellent reasons for believing that "the linguistic and orthographic patterns" of the book are those of the second amanuensis, who is known to have lived in Lynn at least from "the time of his early manhood."

Since these works are available, it is not necessary to draw so heavily upon The Macro Plays and The Paston Letters as would otherwise be necessary. The Macro plays are hard to use because of the great inconsistency in their spellings. The Paston letters, written by many different people of widely varying education, make an unsatisfactory basis for generalization as a whole. It would be possible, however, with the use of Miss Kihlbom's findings as to which of the letters are autographs, to make separate studies of several of the correspondents; but the relatively limited vocabulary range of each set of letters would result in very limited evidence. Fortunately that process appears unnecessary; and the Paston letters, as well as the Macro plays, are used only as invaluable supplementary material. Both furnish evidence which is helpful in the attempt to distinguish the standard spellings in the system of MS G1 from the local spellings.

The following spellings from The Macro Plays are of especial interest: petv, petously, 3 cases of 5; massenger, 1 case of 4; ngg for ng, 1 case; on-, neg. pref., 13 cases; truly, 2 cases; example, 4 cases; historically incorrect gh, 1 case; omission of gh in daughter, 12 cases of 12; omission of gh in other words, several cases but no pronounced tendency.

The spellings from The Paston Letters may be divided into two groups: those from letters which Miss Kihlbom considers autographs¹ and those from other letters and documents. The dates for most of them range from c. 1460 to c. 1489. Significantly early dates are placed in parentheses after the words and preceded by A.D. to distinguish them from the other figures.

Spelling	No. of Cases	Names of Users
advicce, advise	17	.Sir John Paston II, John Paston, R. Calle, and J. Gresham
advayle.	1	.Sir John Paston II
advowe	1	.Sir John Paston II
exampyll	1	.John Paston
truly, trwest.	2	.R. Calle and John Paston
guyde.	6	.Sir John Paston II, John Paston, and J. Gresham
ngg.	8	.Three Pastons and J. Gresham

¹A Contribution to the Study of Fifteenth Century English,
p. xxx.

Spelling	No. of Cases	Names of Users
Weel(e)	8	.R. Calle, J. Gresham
On-, neg. pref.	9	.Three Pastons and R. Calle
Omission of <u>gh</u> in <u>daughter</u> . .	3	.Sir John Paston II, and William Paston
Omission of <u>gh</u> in other words besides <u>daughter</u>	5	.Clement, John, and Sir John Paston II
Massage, massenger	4	.Sir John Paston II
Woord(e)	16	.John Paston and others

In the group of letters and documents which are not autographs the following Latinized spellings and gui- spellings are to be found: example and compounds, 4 cases; advice, advise, 34 cases; atcheve, 2 cases; advoutrere, 1 case; adward, 1 case; adnull (A.D. 1426), 1 case; subtill, 1 case; guyde, 5 cases; beguyled, 1 case. Other interesting spellings are grutch (A.D. 1450, 1451), 2 cases; true, truly, trwly, 16 cases; weel(e) or weell (adv.), 38 cases; ngg, 25 cases; massage, massenger, 9 cases; omission of gh in daughter, 9 cases; historically incorrect addition of gh, very numerous; on-, neg. pref., 7 cases; wole, 17 cases; hise, hesse, 20 cases; woord(e), 9 cases.

As has been pointed out, the main body of the evidence as to fifteenth-century spelling in Norfolk and Suffolk is to be found in the works of Lydgate, Capgrave, and Bokenham. I examined the following books: Capgrave's Chronicle, Life of St. Augustine, and Life of St. Gilbert; Bokenham's Legendys of Hooly Wummen; and Lydgate's Fall of Princes (the first and second books), Reson and Sensuallyte, Troy Book (Part I), and Pilgrimage of the Life of Man.¹ Of these the following appear most suitable for detailed presentation: Capgrave's Life of St. Gilbert,² Bokenham's

¹EETS editions of them all were used except for Capgrave's Chronicle, which is in the Rolls Series.

²It and the Life of St. Augustine (which might as well have been chosen) are thought to be in Capgrave's own handwriting. See the Introduction to J. J. Munro's edition of the two biographies (EETS, O. S., No. 140, pp. ix-x).

Legendys of Hooly Wummen,¹ and Lydgate's Fall of Princes.² The date of the MSS of these works and that of the Margery Kempe MS are as follows: Life of St. Gilbert, between 1451 and 1464;³ Legendys of Hooly Wummen, 1447;⁴ Fall of Princes, c. 1450;⁵ and the Book of Margery Kempe, 1450 or a little before.⁶

The G1 spellings in these four works and in the three books chosen from the London group are presented in the following pages. The Roman numerals, as before, represent the four groups, according to numerical importance, into which the G1 spellings are divided in the list presented on pp. 33-35. Additional symbols, however are necessary.⁷ The three following are fundamentally the same as those used formerly (see p. 41 supra): (1) a blank space means that some other spelling besides that of MS G1 appears either invariably or preponderantly in the work; (2) an abbreviation of the name of the author of the work involved⁸ means that the G1 spelling is either invariable or preponderant; and (3) the underlining of the abbreviation of the author's name means that both the G1 spelling and some other spelling occur so often that it is impossible to feel certain of the author's preference. Three additional symbols are used. The asterisk means

¹The work of the third scribe was used, since the first two wrote comparatively small amounts.

²It has an exceptionally wide range of vocabulary.

³Capgrave says himself that the work was composed in 1451; hence the MS must, if it is in his own handwriting, have been done between that date and 1464, the year of his death.

⁴At the end of the MS the date of its writing is given.

⁵See the "Description of the MSS" in Dr. Henry Bergen's edition (EETS, E.S., No. 124, p. 11).

⁶This is the opinion of Mr. J. A. Herbert, as quoted by Professor Meech in his Introduction to the book (EETS, O. S., No. 212, pp. xxxiii-xxxiv).

⁷In each of the MSS of The Canterbury Tales, the words involved occur the same number of times (except in cases of omissions, scribal alterations, or lost leaves). In these works, however, some words either do not occur at all or occur in such small numbers as to have no significance.

⁸The following abbreviations are used: Hoc, Pec, Cax, Lyd, Cap, Bok, and Kem, for Hoccleve, Pecoock, Caxton, Lydgate, Capgrave, Bokenham, and Margery Kempe, respectively.

that the word or words involved occur either not at all or too infrequently for generalization. In special instances, when the total number of cases is very small but all or most of them have the G1 spelling, some such symbol as 6/6 or 6/8 appears. The first means that the word occurs six times in the work in question and in all six cases has the G1 spelling; the other means that the word occurs eight times and in six cases of the eight has the G1 spelling. In still other cases a single figure is used. This means that the spelling is of so much intrinsic interest (as will appear in later discussions) that even one or two G1 spellings out of a great many cases are of interest. The designations of such spellings are preceded by the symbol #. Three entries are followed by a question mark. They are explained in a paragraph at the end of the tabulations.

For the sake of uniformity of treatment, the Latinized spellings, the gui- spellings, and the modern spelling of true and truly are separated from the others as is done in the second chapter. They appear in a small tabulation immediately following the one about to be given.

I

Spelling	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
hise		Pec					
<u>#weel</u>	3	Pec	4	Lyd	7	<u>Bok</u>	
they	<u>Hoc</u>		Cax				
thy			*		*		<u>Kem</u>
nat	Hoc			Lyd			
wole	Hoc	Pec		*	*		*
by- (unac.)		Pec	Cax				
by (prep)	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd		<u>Bok</u>	
all			Cax		Cap	<u>Bok</u>	
thanne, thenne	Hoc	Pec	Cax				
thow			*	*			
upon	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	*	*	*
haue	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem

II

if, yf	Hoc	Pec	Cax		3/3	Bok	
these	*	Pec		Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
yēt			Cax		Cap	Bok	Kem

Spelling	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
<u>any</u>	*			*			Kem
<u>whan</u> , <u>whanne</u>	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
<u>though</u>							
<u>seid</u> , <u>seide</u> , <u>seyd</u>	Hoc	Pec			<u>Cap</u>	Bok	Kem
<u>many</u>	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
<u>anon(e)</u>	Hoc	5/5	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
<u># ngg</u>		2			1		2
<u>vs</u>	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	*		*
<u>vp</u>	Hoc	5/5	Cax	Lyd	*		*
<u>coude</u>	Hoc	*	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
<u>such</u>		Pec	Cax	Lyd			
<u>goth</u> , <u>gooth</u>	Hoc	Pec	Cax	*	*	*	*
<u>brought</u> , <u>brout</u> , <u>thought</u> , etc.		Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	<u>Bok</u>	Kem

III

<u>year</u>	Hoc	3/3		Lyd			
<u>woord</u>			*	Lyd			
<u>ded</u> , <u>dede</u>	*	*		Lvd	Cap	<u>Bok</u>	Kem
<u>geve</u> , <u>yve</u>	Hoc	Pec		<u>Lyd</u>		<u>Bok</u>	Kem
<u># petv</u> , <u>petous</u>	1/4	*	*		1/6	10	3
<u>than</u> , <u>thanne</u>	Hoc	Pec	Cax?	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
<u>whenne</u> , <u>whanne</u>		Pec					
<u>deye</u> , <u>deie</u>		<u>Pec</u>	Cax	Lvd	Cap	Bok	Kem
<u>must</u> , <u>muste</u>		Pec	4/4	<u>Lyd</u>	3/3	*	*
<u>lust</u> (verb)		*	*		*		*
<u>ayen</u> , <u>ayenst</u>		Pec	Cax?				Kem
<u>doth</u> , <u>dooth</u>	Hoc	*	Cax	Lvd	*	Bok	*
<u>high</u> , <u>hygh</u>					*		
<u>owen</u>			*			*	Kem?
<u># ellēs</u> <u>ellīs</u>	Hoc	Pec	2/2	*	7 11	Bok	Kem
<u>sorwe</u>			*	Lyd	*	Bok	Kem
<u>litel</u> , <u>litell</u>	<u>Hoc</u>						
<u>litel</u> , <u>liti1</u>	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
<u>shal</u> , <u>schal</u>	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
<u>full</u>							
<u>array</u>	Hoc	*	*	*			*

Spelling	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
douter, dowtyr		*	*		*	3	Kem
<u>one</u>			Cax				
# <u>on-</u> (neg. pref.)	1			Lyd	Cap		
let, lett, lete		*			6/6	Bok	
# tch as in <u>wretch</u>			11				7

IV

preest		Pec	*	*			
massage, massenger	*	*	*	1		7	3
certeyn, certayn	Hoc	Pec	Cax	*	Cap	Bok	*
moch	Hoc		Cax	*	*		
frute	*			9/12	4/4		1/1
torne	<u>Hoc</u>		Cax	*	*	*	*
ageyn	Hoc			Lyd	<u>Cap</u>	Bok	Kem
verray	Hoc		*	Lyd			*
iuge	Hoc	7/7	4/4	Lyd	4/4	Bok	*
accord	*	*	*	Lyd	*	*	*
estate	Hoc	*	7/7	Lyd	*	*	*
# <u>flier</u>		7					7

Latinized Spellings, Gui- Spellings, and True, Truly

Spelling	Hoc	Pec	Cax	Lyd	Cap	Bok	Kem
subtle		1	16	Lyd		1	
advice, advise			5				*
example	1	5	6	Lyd		Bok	4
<u>gui-</u> spellings			1	7		14	
true			1				
truly, truely	2	1	6				

Three question marks appear in the first tabulation. The first one is used because Caxton in the Mirroure of the World distinguishes between than and then by the modern use of a and e in the two words. The second one is used because in the Book of Margery Kempe owyn is the regular spelling and it is much nearer to the owen of MS G1 than is the owne or own of the other MSS. The third one is used because Caxton wrote again or agayn for

again but regularly used ayenst for against.

Because of the complications arising from the fact that the works do not have the same vocabulary, it is difficult to find a generally acceptable method of counting the G1 spellings found in each. A list of totals is dispensed with, therefore; but it is clear to anyone who examines the material just presented that, by any method of counting, Caxton's total is more significant, though not actually greater, than any of the others because it includes all the modern spellings. Moreover, the number of G1 spellings in Hoccleve, in spite of the inevitable absence of late spellings from so early a MS, is impressive; and the number in Pecock is also very striking. The numbers in the East Anglian works, especially in Lydgate's, are obviously considerable. But the tabulation shows up very strikingly the contrast between the London and the East Anglian works with regard to the spellings in Group I (that is, those which are numerically the most important in the spelling system of MS G1). The fact that the former exhibit a large number of these frequently-occurring spellings while the latter exhibit only a few goes far to explain why a page of any of the London works looks much more like a page of MS G1, in respect to spelling, than does a page of any of the East Anglian works. Another most important reason is that the London works have not only a greater number of the G1 spellings but also a far smaller number of spellings which are strikingly different from those in MS G1. The following are the only noticeable differences in the London works (in addition, of course, to those implied by the blank spaces in the tabulation):¹ Hoccleve, initial sch as in schal, schort, etc.; Pecock, i in self, vss for use, frequent unaccented u as in spokun, regular initial sch, and regular 3t instead of ght; Caxton,² beaulte and pouldre for beauty and powder, thawh for though, and some odd spellings in unaccented syllables, as in emonge and wreton. On the other hand there are numerous differences in the works of the East Anglian authors. Complete

¹Again, as in a similar situation in the second chapter, only phenomena which occur noticeably often are included.

²The vocabulary of the later works of Caxton which I examined is characterized by wholesale importations from French and Latin with a minimum of anglicizing. This phenomenon naturally makes these works look different from MS G1. Insignificant in comparison with this but still noticeable is Caxton's adoption in later works of the spelling theym or theim for them.

lists are not attempted but the most striking ones are given in the following lists.

In the Fall of Princes¹ (the first two books) the following spellings appear regularly: onto for unto; off for of; lich for like; h for gh (hih, heiht, for example); and final ff (as in cheeff, silff, gaff). Frequently be appears for the preposition by, and occasionally chch for cch or tch (as in echcho). Two of these spellings appear in the Life of St. Gilbert: lich and onto. Instead of gh, 3 is used by Capgrave except when gh is omitted altogether, as is often the case before t (as in streyt, tawt, brout, wrout, soute, caute, 3oute, distrant, nyte, knvte, and site). In some words involving ght, however, g is omitted and metathesis of ht occurs, as in myth and ryth. Often h is added to words ending in single t, as in spirith and parfyth. Swech, wech, and mech appear regularly for such, which, and much; and who appears occasionally for how. Initial sch is regular in schuld and schalt.

In striking contrast with the extreme consistency of the Capgrave MS is the spelling of the third scribe of the Bokenham MS. Though it is reasonably consistent in numerous important features, peculiarities are so thickly sprinkled that a page of the Legendys looks exceedingly odd to a person fresh from reading MS Gl. As in one or both of the MSS just mentioned, lich is regularly used for like, be fairly often appears for the preposition by, and h is frequently added after final t (as in seruanth, tyraunth, and craft). But, as is not the case with either of the others, there is considerable irregularity in the use of h (regular wych for which and occasional spellings like wvng, whyht, and schornfully for wise, white, and scornfully) and occasional use of cht for ght (as in douchtyre, svchte). Other peculiarities are occasional ane for one, wurd for word, 3ai for they, and theis for these. Werd and feer appear often, if not invariably, for world and fire. The Book of Margery Kempe exhibits much greater consistency. Xul and xulde (present in some of the older Norfolk writings but absent from the MSS just discussed) appear regularly. So do wech, swech, and mech. Initial sch is regular in sche. Metathesis of ht as in mveth is frequent, and is often accompanied by omission of g as in rith, almythy. Unaccented a

¹The same works are used for these lists as for the tabulations just given.

is frequent in comparatives (for example, levar, oftynar, grettar). Be is the regular spelling of the preposition by.

The comparison just made appears to establish a more significant similarity to the London works (especially those of Caxton before the time of his latest experiments) than to the East Anglian works. Though the G1 spellings in the latter group of writings are numerous, they include a smaller number than do the London works of the spellings that are most important numerically in the spelling system of MS G1. Moreover the work of Caxton is unique among the writings studied in exhibiting all the modern spellings found in MS G1. It has also been pointed out that the numerous G1 spellings in the East Anglian works are accompanied by many dissimilar spellings. Though one cannot assume that all those listed on the preceding page belong to East Anglia (some of the MSS may well have been copied by outsiders), it is a striking fact that the Spirlengs introduced none of them in copying MS Mm. Moreover a few of these dissimilar spellings which occur in more than one of the East Anglian works occur in MS Mm and were regularly changed by the scribes of MS G1; they are as follows: regular be for the preposition by, frequent 3if or 3iff for if, and metathesis of ht (only a few cases in MS Mm). These varied types of evidence, all pointing in the same direction, seem to justify the conclusion that the scribes of MS G1 were conscious of a London standard of spelling.

It is inevitable, however, that in copying MS Mm, the scribes of MS G1 should have introduced some spellings which were familiar in East Anglia¹ but infrequently, if ever, used in London in the fifteenth century. The evidence in the works examined indicates that the following eight spellings² belong to this group: douter; massage, massenger; petous, pety; ded(e); woord(e); on-, neg. pref.; sorwe; and frute.

¹No effort has been made to show that they were confined to East Anglia. A good many fifteenth-century works of other provenience were read for purposes of comparison, but an exhaustive investigation was not attempted.

²The tabulation on pp. 55-58 supra does not include the omission of gh from other words besides daughter; consequently that phenomenon is not included in this list. Abundant evidence that it was familiar in East Anglia has been given in this chapter (see especially the preceding page), however; and I have found no indications that it was used in London.

1. Douter (or dowter, -yr, -ir) instead of doughter.--The omission of gh from daughter appears only 3 times in the London works examined.¹ Evidence for East Anglia, on the other hand is good: 3 cases in the Life of St. Gilbert; numerous cases in Margery Kempe (it is the regular spelling in that long work); and 12 cases each in the Macro Plays and the Paston Letters.² In addition to these³ there are 18 cases in Capgrave's Chronicle and one in his Life of St. Augustine.⁴

2. Massage, massanger, massager, massenger instead of message, messenger.--There are only two cases of this spelling in the London works examined, both from Gregory's Chronicle (and Gregory's Suffolk birth must be remembered in a case like this). Evidence for East Anglia is fairly good: 1 case in Fall of Princes, 7 cases in Legendys, 3 in Margery Kempe, 1 in Macro Plays, and 13 in the Paston Letters. In addition to these there are 7 in the Troy Book.⁵

3. Petous, pety or pete instead of pitous, pty.--This spelling appears only once in the London works examined, but several times in the East Anglian MSS.⁶ The figures are as follows: St. Gilbert, 1; Legendys, 10; Margery Kempe, 3; and Macro

¹It must always be remembered that some case or cases may have been overlooked. This qualification applies to all such statements in this discussion.

²For convenience the totals for the two groups of Paston letters are used in these lists.

³Throughout these lists the cases mentioned for the first time are thus separated from those presented earlier in the chapter.

⁴A few cases in works of other provenience may be of some interest: 3 in a Wiltshire document of 1376 (printed by Morsbach in Mittelenglische Originalurkunden von der Chaucer zeit bis zur Mitte des XV Jahrhunderts), 1 case in the Cely Papers, and 2 cases in the Stonor Letters and Papers. MS Harley 7333 of the Gesta Romanorum (provenience unknown so far as my information extends) has 18 cases.

⁵The fact that there are 30 cases in Generides is of interest. Nothing is suggested about the provenience of this MS in W. A. Wright's Introduction to the EETS edition except that it was owned by a Norfolk family. It may or may not, of course, have been copied by a Norfolk man.

⁶In addition it appears 5 times in Generides, which, as explained in the preceding footnote, may possibly have been written in Norfolk. In the Poems of John Audelay, pete appears 31 times and petuysly, 3 times.

Plays, 3.

4. Ded(e) instead of did.--This spelling makes such a display in the tabulation that it is superfluous to labor the point of its prevalence in East Anglia. Apparently it was not unknown in the early part of the century in London (for example, it appears 6 times in the Chambers and Daunt documents, whereas the i spelling appears only 4 times), but there is no evidence in the works examined that it was much used in London later in the century, though in almost any MS a few scattered cases occur.

5. On-, neg. pref., instead of vn-.--On- as a negative prefix occurs only twice in the London works examined, but often in the East Anglian material. It is prevalent in the Fall of Princes and St. Gilbert; and it appears 13 times in the Macro Plays and 16 times in the Paston Letters. In addition to these there are 9 cases in Capgrave's St. Augustine and 11 cases in his Chronicle. It is the only one of these eight spellings which is recorded in Wright's English Dialect Dictionary as occurring in East Anglia in modern times. In that work, undeniable is quoted from Suffolk.

6. Woord(e) instead of word(e).--Double o in word does not appear in the London works examined. It is, however, prevalent in the Fall of Princes and occurs 25 times in the Paston Letters.

7. Frute for fruyt(e) or fruit(e).--There are 14 cases of frute (in 3 different works) in the East Anglian material and none in the London material. The evidence is not enough to generalize from; but, such as it is, it points to East Anglia.

8. Sorwe instead of sorowe or sorewe.--According to the evidence in the works examined, the spelling of sorrow without developed o or e was prevalent in East Anglia and rare in London in the fifteenth century. This must mean merely that sorwe was going out of fashion; as the ancient spelling of the word it necessarily prevailed in London earlier.

In addition to these eight spellings more or less well known in East Anglia but used infrequently, if at all, in London, there are four which, while not uncommon in London, were apparently much more in vogue in East Anglia. The accuracy of this classification can be confirmed by a glance at the tabulation and the lists given earlier in the chapter. Any other necessary informa-

tion is presented in footnotes. The list is as follows: any,¹ deve, let,² and these.

On the other hand 14 of the Gl spellings appear to have been in more common use in London than in East Anglia. The list is as follows:³ initial y in us, up, and upon; ⁴ such; ⁵ final ne in when, than, and then; wole; bi- unaccented; final y in they; if or yf (instead of forms beginning with 3 or y), torne, moch,⁶ high,⁷ and one.⁸

¹Any is prevalent in the Troy Book. Friederici analyzed by centuries the spellings in Chambers and Daunt and found (Der Lautstand Londons um 1400, p. 31) that while any prevailed in fourteenth-century London, eny was predominant in the fifteenth century.

²The spelling let was not really rare in London, though it predominates only in Gregory's Chronicle. It occurs in most, if not all, of the London works, though not sufficiently often to be recognized in the table or the lists.

³Any necessary explanation or evidence in addition to that which appears in the tabulation and the lists already given is supplied in footnotes.

⁴For these three words professional scribes in London appear to have used initial y consistently; but there are enough cases of initial u in some of the East Anglian works examined to justify the statement that the practice was far from invariable in East Anglia. The number is greater than would necessarily be implied by the tabulation.

⁵According to Morsbach, Lekebusch, and Friederici (pp. 64, 49, and 37, respectively), such or suche either predominates or occurs significantly often in the documents they studied.

⁶There is considerable use of moch(e) in the London documents; it is notably predominant in those printed by Chambers and Daunt. Also it prevails in the other five works of Caxton examined as well as in the Mirroure of the World. The tabulation, however, gives a somewhat inaccurate notion of the situation in the East Anglian writings: the spelling occurs rather often in Lydgate's Troy Book and occasionally in other works.

⁷The tabulation gives an inaccurate impression with regard to high. The spelling is rare in East Anglian writings (though it often appears in Lydgate's Reson and Sensuallyte), but it appears in most of the London works, though not often enough to justify recognition in the tabulation. It appears frequently in Caxton's Blanchardyn and Eglantine, Fayttes of Armes and of Chyualrye, and Eneydos.

⁸One seems to have been relatively rare anywhere until about the time of Caxton (it is the regular spelling in all of Caxton's works examined). Exceptions to this statement are Gregory's Chronicle and the English Register of Godstow Nunnery,

Three groups of the remaining spellings present themselves: those which are strikingly predominant in both London and East Anglia, those which are less strikingly predominant but certainly common, and those which appear rarely in the works of both sections. For the first group, those which are predominant in both sections, the evidence in the lists and the tabulation is so extensive that it is superfluous to do more than list the spellings. They are as follows: a in many, when, and than, then; single final l in little and shall; single g in luge; d instead of th in coude; initial a in anon; ou in brought, wrought, etc.; final ue in have; elles or ellis; and aven or agein.

There are also spellings which appear to have been common in both sections, though not predominant. The evidence, less extensive than that for the preceding group, is perfectly clear in the lists and tabulations. Any pertinent additional information is presented in footnotes. The list is as follows: doth, all, nat, weel (adv.), geve or yeve, yet, estate, seid, certeyn or certavn, verray,¹ must,² and array.³

The spellings in the third group, according to the evidence in the works examined, seem to have been more or less rare in both London and East Anglia. They are as follows: litel or litell, final ll in full, final y in thy,⁴ final w in thou, lust

in both of which it is the prevailing spelling, and the Poems of John Audelay, in which it appears 18 times.

¹Verray either predominates or occurs significantly often in Reson and Sensuallyte, Pilgrimage of the Life of Man, and Troy Book.

²Must or muste either predominates or appears significantly often in Pilgrimage of the Life of Man, Fayttes of Armes and of Chyualrve, and Blanchardyn and Eglantine.

³Array either predominates or occurs significantly often in Reson and Sensuallyte, Fayttes of Armes and of Chyualrve, and Troy Book.

⁴The tabulation is somewhat misleading with regard to these first three spellings. In many MSS they appear sufficiently often to make it clear that they were perfectly familiar to the scribes (this is true of full and thy in every MS), though they were decidedly in the minority.

(verb), yeer, owen, accord, tch for cch,¹ though,² fier,³ ngg,⁴ and hise.⁵

Finally it remains to comment on the three groups of modern spellings. The array of gui- spellings in MS G1, which at first seems insignificant in comparison with the large figures for many of the spellings, appears increasingly important, as more and more works are examined not only because the total number of cases (45) is comparatively large but also because the total number of words involved is comparatively large. Very few of the works examined contain gui- spellings of more than 2 different words; whereas in MS G1 they appear in 8 different words and also in compounds of 3 of those 8.⁶ The Pilgrimage of the Life of Man, with its gui- spellings in 4 different words and compound of one of the 4 is its closest competitor among the works of other authors examined; and none of the other MSS of the Canterbury Tales has such a range of words with gui- spellings. Moreover, I was unable to find guilt or any of its compounds in any of the fifteenth-century material examined, whereas 3 cases each of guilt and guiltless appear in the portion of MS G1 copied from MS Mm. It appears safe to assume, then, that the one case of a gui- spelling of this word quoted by the OED (dated c. 1330) for a date earlier than 1553 must have been sporadic. As has been pointed out, however, it is natural that this word of Old English origin should have resisted the French spelling longer than the words of Old French origin. It is improbable that MS G1

¹This spelling appears so rarely before the time of Caxton's later works that the number found in MS G1 comparatively very large.

²Thouh, thou3, thogh, thow, and they are popular spellings of though.

³Mrs. Kerby-Miller ("Scribal Dialects in the c and d MSS of the Canterbury Tales," p. 50) classified this as a Kentish and Eastern spelling.

⁴This spelling occurs frequently in Generides. There is one case each in the Shillingford and Stonor letters.

⁵In the use of this spelling the Spirlengs seem to have been decidedly old-fashioned. In fact, their use of hise for both singular and plural suggests that they were using a spelling so old that it was no longer understood.

⁶Guile and 3 compounds, guise and 1 compound, guide, guy, guilt and 1 compound, gite, girdle, and gittern. Guyte and guvr-del, however, appear only once each.

is really so far ahead of its time with respect to this one word as the facts just given seem to indicate; but it does appear safe to assume that, on the whole, MS G1 is somewhat ahead of its time with regard to gui- spellings.

Similarly the figures for true and truly in MS G1 (truly, 14; true, 23; ontrue, 3) appear more and more significant as more and more works are examined. The modern spelling of these words is somewhat less rare, however, than the tabulation on p. 57 supra would indicate.¹ but the number in most works is so small that the 7 cases of true and 8 of truly² in the fifteenth-century records in the Coventry Leet Book seem impressive. This is not the case, however; with the MSS of the Canterbury Tales. Though appearing rarely in most of the MSS and never in a good many, the spelling occurs in large numbers in a few; consider, for example, the 34 cases of truly and 16 of true in MS II.³

Much more interesting than these two groups are the Latinized spellings. Their spread in the fifteenth century is a phenomenon of too great scope to be treated incidentally in a paragraph or two; but a few generalizations involving those which appear in the spelling system of MS G1 can be presented.

It has already been pointed out that there is a striking contrast in most MSS of the Canterbury Tales between the frequent appearance of subtle and its compounds and the rare appearance of example and advice, advise. Example is more frequent in other fifteenth-century works and appears in a considerable proportion of them. Though ad- spellings are rare in the MSS of the Canterbury Tales, it is clear from the variety of them in the Paston Letters and scattered cases elsewhere⁴ that the advow and advail, as well as the frequent advice, advise, of MS G1 are not isolated cases. In Caxton's later works ad- spellings (as well as a great variety of other Latinized spellings) abound. Much rarer, natu-

¹Both true and truly appear much more often in other works of Caxton than in the Mirroure of the World; and truly occurs several times in Lydgate's Pilgrimage and Reson and Sensuallyte.

²There are additional cases in the documents addressed to city officials by the King.

³Probably there are others; I did not look up all the line numbers in any MS.

⁴See pp. 48, 49, 52, 53 supra.

rally, is recognizance, which I found only in Caxton's second edition of the Canterbury Tales, in his Book of Jason, and in the Coventry Leet Book (one case each). Rarer still is the Latinized spelling of perfect. I found it nowhere else except in the Paris MS of the Canterbury Tales. It seems safe, then, to conclude that it occurred infrequently before the sixteenth century.¹ On the whole, the array of Latinized spellings in MS G1 is more considerable than that in any other piece of writing among the works examined of an equally early date.

¹The earliest example quoted by the OED is dated 1526.

CONCLUSION

The results of the investigations described in the preceding pages can be summarized briefly. First, a word-by-word comparison of the spellings in MS G1 (that portion of the MS which was copied from MS Mm) with the spellings of the exemplar shows that the changes made by the two scribes of MS G1 (who appear to have had almost identical spelling habits) are of such great number and striking consistency that when organized they can properly be called a spelling system. The discovery of this system naturally led to exhaustive search among the photostats of all the other extant MSS of the Canterbury Tales for a similar system (with especial emphasis placed on the presence of "modern" spellings, a striking feature of the system of MS G1). It was found that on the basis of possession of the same "modern" spellings, together with an unusually large number of other similarities, the spelling system of MS Hk more closely resembles that of MS G1 than does that of any other MS of the Canterbury Tales. Moreover the search revealed the fact that the spelling system of MS E1, though precluded by the early date of the MS from the use of "modern" spellings, is in other respects remarkably similar to that of MS G1.

After study of the Chaucer MSS, the next step, naturally, was to investigate other fifteenth-century writings from the Spirelges' own section of England in order to see whether a similar spelling system could be found among them. In addition, two reasons prompted an examination of fifteenth-century London works: the opinion expressed by the editors of the Text that MS E1 (remarkably similar to MS G1 in spellings) might well have been made in London; and the natural curiosity as to whether a scribe in Norfolk with at least indirect London contacts might have had some consciousness of spellings prevalent in London and attempted to use them.

Results of the study of these two groups of works cannot, however, be regarded with the same confidence as those of the investigation of the Chaucer MSS, because the amount of material is

insufficient to permit confident generalization. Moreover none of the works except a few by Capgrave exist in holograph. But it is clear that of all the extant material examined the spelling system of the work of Caxton of approximately the same date (before the time of his extensive employment of French and Latin words with a minimum of alteration) bears the closest resemblance to that of MS G1; and, since Caxton's work was printed instead of copied by hand, one can feel reasonably sure of his intentions. In addition, there are numerous similarities between the spelling system of MS G1 and that of earlier London work. In fact, the relations with Hoccleve's De Regimine Principum and Caxton's Mirroure of the World are analogous to those with MS E1 and MS Hk.

Although the most significant similarities are to London works, there is naturally very extensive similarity to East Anglian writings, especially some works of Lydgate. The importance of these striking resemblances, however, is lessened by the fact that in the East Anglian works there are also numerous spellings which are noticeably different from those in MS G1, a fact which is not true of the London works. Of course, however, some of the changes made by the Spirlengs in copying their exemplar were in the direction of local spellings.

It appears, then, that the scribes of MS G1, who obviously objected to the provincial spellings in MS Mm, "corrected" them with some consciousness of spellings prevalent in London. The facts about one MS of the last quarter of the fifteenth century cannot, of course, be a sound basis for generalization. But what we know of spellings before and after the time of the writing of MS G1 enables us to recognize that its spelling system on the whole exemplifies fairly well one of the transitional stages between the London spelling of Chaucer's time and that of the sixteenth century. Since it is well known that during the fifteenth century London speech was becoming the standard speech of England, it is no cause for wonder that the Spirlengs were influenced also by London spellings.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX I

THE TREATMENT OF FINAL E BY THE SCRIBES OF MS G1

As was explained on p. 24 supra, the details of the treatment of final e by the scribes of MS G1 are so numerous and of such minor importance as to require presentation in an appendix. The figures are given for each part of speech in the usual order, except that the verbs, which occupy much more space than the others, are placed last.

In some cases statements from Ten Brink's Chaucers Sprache und Verskunst as revised by Eduard Eckhardt (3d ed.; Leipzig: Tauchnitz, 1920) are quoted or summarized; Ten Brink's conclusions on certain points may be of some interest in this connection, since the work has long been regarded as standard.

The figures for metrical justification--or lack of it--of the addition or omission of final e are omitted (with occasional minor exceptions) except in the case of adjectives and verbs, which furnish more interesting details than the other parts of speech. In general, additions or omissions which are justifiable on the basis of etymology or historical grammar are, as would be expected, also metrically justifiable. For the purposes of this investigation it is desirable to use a standard which can be applied objectively (much as the rigidity must be deplored from the aesthetic point of view). Accordingly the ten-syllable, iambic-pentameter line is taken as the ideal; any addition or omission of final e (assuming, of course, that it was pronounced) which brings the line in MS G1 nearer to that ideal than the line in MS Mm is classified as metrically justifiable, and any addition or omission of final e which removes it farther from the ideal is classified as metrically unjustifiable. Some cases, of course, have to be given up; they are labeled questionable. Final e's at the end of a line and those preceding a vowel or h are classified separately.

NOUNS

In 1294 cases the scribes of MS G1 omitted final e from nouns. Of this total, 132 are verbal nouns ending in ing.¹ In only 304 cases did they add final e to nouns, and none of these cases is a verbal noun. Final e was omitted from the following nouns between 10 and 20 times: case, clerk, hond, honour, hors, houe, myght, myller, nyght, sight, song, toun, trouth. It was omitted from the following nouns between 23 and 42 times: gold, hed, housbond, lord, wight, and world. Kyng and thvng exhibit the omission 62 and 68 times respectively.

Final e was added to the following nouns between 10 and 21 times: carpentere, heuene, manere, son (meaning "son"), and wyfe. The word day exhibits both addition and omission so many times as to demonstrate that the scribes had no strong preference with regard to it.

Most of the nouns from which final e was omitted are masculine or neuter and so would not normally have a final e in Middle English (except, of course, in the case of the weak declension). The same is true of the nouns to which final e was added. In some cases, however, (wife, for example, among those listed) it may have been added as a sign of length.

PRONOUNS

In more than 400 cases the scribes of MS G1 omitted final e from pronouns; and in only 36 cases they added final e. There are only 10 cases of omission of final e in addition to those given in the following list: hir, 95 cases;² hymself or hemself,

¹According to Ten Brink (p. 119), verbal nouns sometimes have final e in Chaucer and sometimes not. In view of this statement it may be worth mentioning that 19 of the total number of 132 cases are metrically justified in MS G1, none are metrically unjustified, and the rest (except for 3 questionable cases) are almost equally divided between cases resulting in elision and cases at the end of a line.

²This is not the total number of cases, but the number occurring between A353-2400 and B350-D153. It soon became apparent that the scribes of MS G1 omitted final e from hir almost every time they saw it; consequently it seemed superfluous to record

30 cases; other compounds of gelf, 23 cases; som, 12 cases; thow, thou, 9 cases; whom, 23 cases; you, 87 cases; and yow, 116 cases. Alle (12 cases) is the only pronoun which often exhibits the addition of final e. The proportion of additions of final e is unusually small. Most of the omissions of final e are both historically and metrically justifiable.

ADJECTIVES

Weak Adjectives

The figures for weak adjectives were divided into two groups with a view to discovering whether the scribes of MS G1 made any distinction between plural adjectives and other types of weak adjectives.¹ The results show that they added final e much oftener, in proportion, to plural adjectives than to the other weak adjectives.

Singular Weak Adjectives and Vocatives

Omission of Final <u>e</u>	Addition of Final <u>e</u>
117 cases	10 cases
15 met. jus.	2 met. jus.
71 met. unj.	3 met. unj.
21 elis.	1 elis.
7 end	4 end
<u>3 ?</u>	<u>0 ?</u>
117 total	10 total

all the cases. In 13 cases the omission of final e was accompanied by the substitution of i for e in the first syllable. (It has already been pointed out on p. 14 supra that these scribes wrote hir meaning "her" and her meaning "their".)

¹The abbreviations used in the tabulations of the figures are probably obvious, but they may be a little puzzling at first glance if they are not explained. They are as follows: "met. jus." means "metrically justifiable"; "met. unj." means "metrically unjustifiable"; "elis." means that the final e in question occurs before a vowel or h, thus resulting in elision; "end" indicates that the final e in question occurs at the end of a line; and a question mark means that the line as written in MS G1 is so hard to scan that I could not decide whether the final e helped matters or not.

List of Words

14 last¹
 12 long
 12 first
 14 yong

List of Words

4 fulle¹

Plural Adjectives Preceding the Noun

Omission of final e
 62 cases

36 met. jus.²
 9 met. unj.
 15 elis.
2 ?
 62 total

Addition of final e
 43 cases

9 met. jus.
 18 met. unj.
 16 elis.
0 ?
 43 total

List of Words

16 hir ("her")
 22 her ("their")

List of Words

13 alle
 9 bothe
 7 these

Plural Adjectives, Postpositive or Predicate³

Omission of Final e
 30 cases

2 met. jus.
 1 met. unj.
 11 elis.
16 end.
 30 total

Addition of Final e
 2 cases

0 met. jus.
 0 met. unj.
 1 elis.
1 end
 2 total

Strong Adjectives

A division of the strong adjectives into groups according to whether or not they should have a final e from the historical point of view has no significance; the number of adjectives for

¹Most cases of omission of e from last and all cases of addition of e to full occur in the expressions at the last and at the full.

²That so large a number of these cases is metrically justifiable does not seem strange if one notices that 37 of the 61 cases involve hir or her. According to Ten Brink (p. 135) oure, youre, hire, here never have the final e pronounced in Chaucer.

³These were presented separately because weak adjectives in this position often lose final e.

which final e is historically justifiable is negligible in the lists both of omissions and of additions of final e. The figures for scansion can also be ignored since the results are exactly what one would expect: the omissions are for the most part metrically justifiable; and the additions, in the relatively few cases which do not result in elision, are metrically unjustifiable. The following are the figures for the omission and addition of final e, followed by lists of adjectives which exhibit either often enough to attract attention.

Omission of Final <u>e</u> 486 cases	Addition of Final <u>e</u> 115 cases
34 all	7 alle
9 ded	10 leuere
26 good	61 myne ¹
20 gret	15 none
39 her (meaning "their") ²	6 stille, styllle
136 hir (meaning "her")	6 thyne
23 long	
6 non	
9 som	
17 strong	
10 war	
13 yong	
15 your	

It is interesting to note that all but four of the words in the lists of addition of final e for both strong and weak adjectives are pronominal adjectives.

As the use of hise in a MS of such late date is curious and as the proportions vary from one part of the MS to another, it was studied separately from the other pronominal adjectives. The scribe^s of MS G1 substituted hise for his, indiscriminately before singular and plural, 621 times; and they copied his 469 times. As was pointed out earlier (see p. 5 supra), however, the variations in proportion seem to have no significance, since the substitution and the copying occur within a few lines of each other (often in the same line) throughout the portion of the MS studied.

¹Of these 61 cases, 60 result in elision, as is natural since myne is to be expected before vowels.

²Thirty-seven of the 39 cases mean "their" and 135 cases of hir mean "her."

ADVERBS

In 453 cases the scribes of MS Gl omitted e from adverbs; and in 257 cases they added final e. The figures for scansion are as follows.

Omission of final <u>e</u> 453 cases	Addition of final <u>e</u> 257 cases
232 met. jus.	3 met. jus.
13 met. unj.	98 met. unj.
143 elis.	91 elis.
43 end	62 end
<u>22</u> ?	<u>3</u> ?
453 total	257 total

At first glance it seems odd that the omission of final e from adverbs, a part of speech so commonly ending in final e, should be metrically justifiable. As is obvious, however, from even the partial list which follows, adverbs which should not end in final e (from the historical point of view) make up more than half of the total number of cases. The list of adverbs from which final e was omitted more than five times is as follows: all, 9 cases; allway, alwey, alway, 11 cases; best, 11 cases; first, 34 cases; forth, 12 cases; how, 36 cases; long, 17 cases; now, 176 cases; and out, 20 cases. The following is a list of adverbs to which final e was added more than five times: anone, 66 times; euere, 55 times; neuere, 37 times; ther(e)fore, 8 times; there, 30 times.

All the words in the second list except anone end with final re. In some of these cases the scribe of MS Mm may have indicated final e by a faint curl which is no longer perceptible; hence some of these figures may be too large. The intention of the scribes of MS Gl, however, with regard to neuere and euere is clear since they abbreviated er and added e plainly. Other evidence of their preference for final e on there is to be found on p. 23 supra and p. 78 infra.

The final e on anone may have been used as a means of indicating length of vowel.

PREPOSITIONS, CONJUNCTIONS, AND INTERJECTIONS

The preposition, the conjunction, and the interjection do not offer sufficiently large figures to justify more than a brief statement. Final e was omitted from prepositions 68 times and added 20 times. In addition to these cases, the scribes of MS G1 in 79 cases omitted final e from out in the compound preposition out of. The majority of the omissions are both historically and metrically justifiable. The one noticeable case of addition (ouere, 13 times)¹ is justifiable neither historically nor metrically. The following is a list of prepositions from which e was omitted eight times or more: among, 12 cases; saf, 13 cases; thurghout, 8 cases; without, 15 cases; and out of, 79 cases.

Final e was omitted from conjunctions 71 times and added 87 times. The majority of the omissions are both historically and metrically justifiable. The majority of the additions are metrically unjustifiable, but they are almost equally divided from the historical point of view. How was substituted for howe 63 times;² and there and bothe were substituted for yer and both 30 times each. The only other two prepositions to which final e was added noticeably often are sithe or sethe, 10 cases; and while, 8 cases.³

Final e was omitted from interjections 10 times and added 4 times. No word occurs often in either list.

EXPLETIVES

It has already been pointed out in connection with other parts of speech that the scribes of MS G1 preferred to spell there with a final e. Much additional evidence of this preference is presented by their spelling of the expletive there. They wrote

¹In this case there is no occasion for the type of doubt with regard to words ending in re which was explained on the preceding page; in every one of the cases involved here, the scribe of MS Mm abbreviated final er; so that there is no occasion to wonder if a final curl is no longer perceptible.

²This total includes 26 cases of how followed by that.

³This total includes 3 cases of while followed by that.

there, th'e, þ'e (the first, 54 times; the second, 42 times; and the third, 24 times) for ther, yer, or ȳ a total of 120 times. In 37 cases the scribe of MS Mm wrote ȳ (he might have done so oftener had it not been for the fact that numerous cases of there as expletive occur at the beginning of a line and he tended not to use abbreviations for the first word of a line); hence in at least 37 cases there is no possibility of doubt as to his intentions.

VERBS

All the cases of the addition or omission of final e as affecting verbs may be divided into three groups on the basis of historical grammar: verb forms which should not have final e, verb forms which should have final e, and verb forms which it is impossible to classify satisfactorily in either of the other groups.

Verb Forms Which Should Not Have Final e1. Infinitives which have not lost final n

Omission of final <u>e</u> 33 cases	Addition of final <u>e</u> 7 cases
6 met. jus.	0 met. jus.
0 met. unj.	0 met. unj.
18 elis.	6 elis.
8 end	1 end
<u>1 ?</u>	<u>0 ?</u>
33 total	7 total
List of Words	List of Words
16 ben	5 done
9 seyn	

2. Past participles, weak

Omission of final <u>e</u> 99 cases	Addition of final <u>e</u> 9 cases
34 met. jus.	0 met. jus.
1 met. unj.	6 met. unj.
26 elis.	3 elis.
33 end	0 end
<u>5 ?</u>	<u>0 ?</u>
99 total	9 total

List of words

13 said

3. Past participles, strong (retaining the final n) and anomalous

Omission of final <u>e</u>	Addition of final <u>e</u>
36 cases	10 cases
12 met. jus.	0 met. jus.
0 met. unj.	2 met. unj.
14 elis.	2 elis.
9 end	6 end
1 ?	0 ?
<u>36</u> total	<u>10</u> total

List of Words

14 ben¹
8 gon

List of Words

6 done

4. Present indicative, 1sg. and 1, 2, 3 plural, anomalous, and pret.-pres.

Omission of final <u>e</u>	Addition of final <u>e</u>
51 cases	7 cases
27 met. jus.	0 met. jus.
4 met. unj.	7 met. unj.
15 elis.	0 elis.
2 end	0 end
<u>3</u> ?	<u>0</u> ?
51 total	7 total

List of Words

32 ben
5 dar

List of Words

3 done²
4 mote (1 sg.)

5. Present indicative, 3 sg.

Omission of final <u>e</u>	Addition of final <u>e</u>
29 cases	18 cases
23 met. jus.	0 met. jus.
0 met. unj.	9 met. unj.
5 elis.	7 elis.
<u>1</u> end	<u>2</u> end
29 total	18 total

¹Emerson (Middle English Reader, p. cxiv) gives bene as an alternative form; but according to Ten Brink (p. 115) it is not used by Chaucer; and it is not historically correct.

²Occasionally in these lists I include words which occur

List of Words

10 hath
14 lust

List of Words

10 mote

6. Weak present and preterit indicative; and strong present indicative, 2 sg.

Omission of final e
74 cases

48 met. jus.
0 met. unj.
23 elis.
1 end
2 ?

74 total

Addition of final e
3 cases

0 met. jus.
3 met. unj.
0 elis.
0 end
0 ?

3 total

List of Words

10 maist, mayst
17 hast
22 art

7. Preterit indicative, 1 and 3 sg., strong

Omission of final e
76 cases

25 met. jus.
2 met. unj.
45 elis.
4 end
0 ?

76 total

Addition of final e¹
45 cases

2 met. jus.
14 met. unj.
25 elis.
3 end
1 ?

45 total

List of Words

13 bar
10 lay
7 song
5 hyng
14 saw

List of Words

10 come
8 fele

seldom in the list in question but often in some other list or repeatedly in several lists.

¹In two of these cases, ryde for right (A 981, 981), the vowel is incorrect for the preterit.

Verb Forms Which Should Have Final e1. Infinitives which have lost final n

Omission of final e
73 cases

11 met. jus.
6 met. unj.
26 elis.
29 end
1 ?

73 total

List of Words

14 bryng
6 sey, say
6 spryng, spryngg
12 syng

Addition of final e
168 cases

21 met. jus.
47 met. unj.
58 elis.
36 end
6 ?

168 total

List of Words

6 duelle
6 faille, fayle
47 haue
52 telle

2. Present participles¹

Omission of final e
95 cases

31 met. jus.
0 met. unj.
41 elis.
19 end
4 ?

95 total

List of Words

5 duellyng
6 sittying

Addition of final e
None

3. Strong past participles which have lost final n²

Omission of final e
10 cases

1 met. unj.
3 elis.
6 end

10 total

Addition of final e
9 cases

4 met. unj.
4 elis.
1 end

9 total

¹According to Ten Brink (p. 111) the present participle not infrequently ends with silent final e in Chaucer's work, especially in rime. See p. 72 supra for omission of final e from verbal nouns ending in ing.

²According to Ten Brink (p. 115) the final e of the past

List of Words

6 come
 1 ougrecome
 1 ycome

4. Present indicative, 1 sg. and 1, 2, 3 plural, weak and strong

Omission of final e
 30 cases

14 met. jus.
 5 met. unj.
 8 elis.
 2 end
 1 ?

30 total

List of Words

9 pray
 8 sey, say

Addition of final e
 100 cases

5 met. jus.
 48 met. unj.
 41 elis.
 3 end
 3 ?

100 total

List of Words

69 haue
 7 telle

5. Preterit indicative, 1 and 3 sg., weak, pret.-pres., and don¹

Omission of final e
 193 cases

26 met. jus.
 45 met. unj.
 89 elis.
 29 end
 4 ?

193 total

List of Words

68 seid, said
 10 durst
 7 myght
 8 wlst, wost, wyst

Addition of final e
 41 cases

4 met. jus.
 10 met. unj.
 24 elis.
 3 end
 0 ?

41 total

List of Words

22 dede

participles of strong verbs which originally had short-syllabbed roots often is not pronounced in Chaucer's work.

¹According to Ten Brink (p. 113) the 1 and 3 sg. of the preterit of unsynocopated weak verbs is silent and is regularly left off in the "besseren Handschriften." This, he says, often happens also to a word that has again adopted the medial vowel. Of the total of 193 cases of omission of final e, 35 belong to one or the other of these groups, but only one case of the 41 in which e was added belongs to either.

6. Preterit indicative, strong, 2 sg.

Omission of final e
None

Addition of final e
2 cases

1 met. jus.
1 elis.

7. Preterit indicative plural, of strong verbs which have lost the final n,¹ of weak verbs,² and of pret. -pres. verbs.

Omission of final e
12 cases

Addition of final e
30 cases

2 met. jus.
2 met. unj.
6 elis.
2 end
0 ?

12 total

2 met. jus.
14 met. unj.
10 elis.
2 end
2 ?

30 total

List of words

7 dede
17 were

8. Subjunctive, weak and strong, present and preterit³

Omission of final e
7 cases

Addition of final e
34 cases

3 met. jus.
1 met. unj.
2 elis.
1 end

7 total

3 met. jus.
12 met. unj.
18 elis.
1 end

34 total

List of words

7 haue
10 were, were

¹According to Ten Brink (p. 113) the singular form often appears for the plural preterit of strong verbs in Chaucer's works.

²According to Ten Brink (p. 113) the preterit plural of unsynopated weak verbs regularly loses en. Four of the 10 cases of omission of final e from the preterit plural of weak verbs belong to this group. Ten Brink adds (p. 114) that in Chaucer's work for the sake of rime or meter, the 1 and 3 sg. and even the plural preterit of synopated weak verbs can lose the final e.

³In dealing with the subjunctive, I took only cases in which the form clearly differentiated the subjunctive from the indicative. A few cases puzzled me, and I am including them in

Since there are a good many subdivisions in the material just presented, a summary may be useful. The scribes of MS G1 in 397 cases omitted final e from verb forms which should not have had final e; in 97 cases they added it. In 420 cases they omitted final e from verb forms which should have had it; in 284 cases they added it. The following are some totals for individual words.

Verb Forms Which Should Not Have Final e

Omission of final <u>e</u>	Addition of final <u>e</u>
22 art	14 done
13 bar	14 mote
62 ben	10 come
10 hath	
17 hast	
10 lay	
10 maist, mavst	
14 saw	
13 seid	

Verb Forms Which Should Have Final e

Omission of final <u>e</u>	Addition of final <u>e</u>
14 bryng	29 dede
10 durst	123 haue
68 seid, said	59 telle
12 syng	10 were

At first glance one is tempted to think that, although the scribes tended to omit final e from verb forms to a far greater extent than to add them, since they added a much larger number of those which were correct than of those which were

this note instead of in the figures given above. In 4 cases the scribes of MS G1 wrote mote for mot, 3 times for 1 sg. and once for 3 sg. (A 3114, 3675, 4177, and A 3918). Though mote is the historically correct form for the subjunctive, the final e would hardly be a sufficient differentiation in a MS of this date.

I was also puzzled by the substitution of wost for wiste (A 766) and trost for truste (B 3914). Their form is not subjunctive and yet their context so strongly demands the subjunctive that I hesitated to classify them with the indicative.

incorrect, their additions may perhaps have been at least indirectly affected by knowledge of the historically correct forms. Observe, however, that more than 55 per cent of the total number (383) of additions is made up of three words: haue, telle, and dede. Furthermore if the total number of additions for these three verbs (211) is subtracted from the total number of correct additions (284), the result is 73, a smaller number than that of incorrect additions. It appears, therefore, that, although one cannot hope to reach certainty as to the reasons, the scribes of MS G1 usually left off final e; but that there were certain verbs they preferred to write with final e. It seems improbable that considerations of historical grammar could have influenced their practice. Yet it is a striking fact that their additions of final e to the infinitive and to the present indicative (with the exception of the second person), which present the only large totals, are historically correct.

Verb Forms Requiring Special Comment

1. The imperative could not be included in the figures given above. The failure to use the th forms makes it impossible to distinguish the singular from the plural by means of form. In many cases it is impossible to distinguish them by means of the context. The following are the unclassified figures.

Strong Imperative

Omission of final <u>e</u>	Addition of final <u>e</u>
2 cases	43 cases
2 met. jus.	0 met. jus.
0 met. unj.	16 met. unj.
0 elis.	26 elis.
0 ?	1 ?
2 total	43 total
	List of words
	31 lete

Weak Imperative

Omission of final e
9 cases

6 met. jus.
1 met. unj.
2 elis.
0 ?

9 total

Addition of final e
23 cases

2 met. jus.
12 met. unj.
7 elis.
2 ?

23 total

List of Words

7 haue
12 telle

The total number of cases is so small that no generalization can be made, except perhaps that the scribes of MS G1 seemed to have some preference for a final e on imperatives. But observe that three words, haue, telle, and lete, make up 50 of the 65 cases of the addition of final e. In view of the figures for other verb forms it seems probable that the scribes simply had a preference for writing those three verbs with final e, regardless of the construction.

2. Because spellings of will both without and with the final e were used during the Middle English period, it seems best to treat this verb separately. The following are the figures for the singular and the plural.

First and Third Person Singular

wole (will)
100 cases

6 met. jus.
58 met. un.
34 elis.
2 ?

100 total

wole (woll)
90 cases

3 met. jus.
44 met. unj.
42 elis.
1 ?

90 total

wole (wol)
10 cases

0 met. jus.
6 met. unj.
4 elis.
0 ?

10 total

wole (wil)
1 case

0 met. jus.
0 met. unj.
1 elis.
0 ?

1 total

Plural, All Persons

wole (will)
12 cases

8 met. unj.
4 elis.

wole (woll)
15 cases

11 met. unj.
4 elis.

It is clear that the scribes' preference for the spelling wole was very strong indeed. The figures for the scansion of the lines involved tend to confirm Ten Brink's statement (p. 115) that Chaucer used forms without final e. Even though a good many lines may be corrupt, the total number of cases in which wole is metrically unjustifiable (127, as opposed to 9 cases in which the alteration is metrically justifiable) is striking.

3. Shuld and wold must be presented separately since there is no generally acceptable basis for classifying them as to tense and mood. The following are the unclassified figures; they show that the scribes of MS G1 preferred the spelling without final e.

Omission of final <u>e</u>	Addition of final <u>e</u>
Shuld (schulde, scholde) 21 cases	Shulde (schuld) 5 cases
4 met. jus.	0 met. jus.
10 met. unj.	2 met. unj.
5 elis.	3 elis.
1 end	0 end
1 ?	0 ?
21 total	5 total
Wold, nold (wolde, nolde) 44 cases	Wolde (wold) 8 cases
8 met. jus.	3 met. jus.
11 met. unj.	1 met. unj.
25 elis.	4 elis.
44 total	8 total

4. Since the present indicative plural of mot may or may not have final e, and since the G1 scribes frequently did not use the historically correct words when writing some forms of this verb, it seems best to present separately the irregular forms and the present indicative plural. In the lists given below the spelling in parentheses is the spelling in the exemplar.

Singular	Plural
21 must (moste) 3 pres. ind.	1 must (moste) 3 pres. ind.
4 must (moste) 1 pres. ind.	1 must (moste) 3 pret. ind.
1 must (mote) 1 pres. ind.	3 mote (mot) 2 pres. ind.
2 must (moste) 3 pret. ind.	

These figures seem to indicate that the scribes of MS G1 preferred must to mot or mote; but other lists (see pp. 79-80 supra) show that they wrote mote for mot (1 and 3 sg. ind.) 14 times

5. The substitution of haue for han as an infinitive or a present indicative plural has to be classified separately because both forms are correct. The scribes of MS G1 made this substitution 9 times for the infinitive (5 met. jus., 4 elis.) and 15 times for the plural present indicative (9 met. jus., 6 elis.).

6. Since both bene and ben as past participle were in use during the Middle English period, it must be classified separately also. In 14 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted ben for bene, past participle.

APPENDIX II

The following substitutions cannot be classified as changes in spelling, but they are included because they may be of some interest to students of grammar.

Most of them involve the inflection of verbs.

1. In 22 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted the singular imperative or, in some cases, merely the present stem for an imperative ending in th or eth; and in 2 cases they made the opposite substitution.

In 7 cases they omitted th from the third person plural, present indicative; and in 2 cases they substituted n for it.

2. In 78 cases the scribes of MS G1 omitted final n from the infinitive; in 10 cases they added it. In 13 cases they omitted n from the past participle; in 8 cases they added it. In 40 cases they omitted n from the indicative plural, present and preterit; in 3 cases they added it.

3. In 22 cases the scribes of MS G1 omitted final ne from the infinitive; in 25 cases (all involving be) they omitted it from the present indicative plural; in 5 cases from the past participle. The total number of substitutions of be for bene (the word occurs in all 3 groups) is 43.

4. In 6 cases the scribes of MS G1 omitted final en from the infinitive; in 16 cases they omitted it from the indicative plural, present and preterit. They added it once to the infinitive and 3 times to the past participle.

5. An odd phenomenon that of the substitution of the plural form for the singular in the second person singular indicative (23 cases present, 1 case preterit), together with the retention of the singular pronoun. The verbs involved are as follows: dare, 1 case; have, 2 cases; may, 3 cases; shall, 14 cases; and will, 4 cases. The line numbers involved are as follows: A 1285, 1391, 3016, 3502, 3506, 3507, 3527, 3530, 3565, 3567, 3575, 4244, 4270, 4346, 4362, B 860; 1770, 3097, D 176, E 1360, 1388, 1486, 1059. In only a few cases can I find any explanation for this strange substitution. In 8 cases the normal order of the verb and the

pronoun is reversed; in 4 cases the verb may have been mistaken for the subjunctive; and in 1 case the verb is at some distance from the pronoun. In the other 12 cases, however, the pronoun precedes the verb and there is no possibility of confusion with the subjunctive.

The other substitution involves the pronoun. In 41 cases the scribes of MS G1 substituted them for hem; and in 35 cases they substituted þ'e or ther for her, hire, or here. In the majority of cases, however, they copied the hem, her, hire, or here of the exemplar.

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¹Writing as used here refers to the actual writing of the MS, not to the composition of the work.

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